

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-5, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69)

WAC 480-60-010 Application of rules. (1) (~~Subsequent to December 1, 1950, in all construction and reconstruction of tracks or structures adjacent thereto, on all railroads over which freight cars are transported or proposed to be transported, the following minimum clearances shall be allowed.~~) The rules in this chapter apply to all common carrier railroad companies operating within the state of Washington, including any facilities or structures owned or operated by the railroad, and to the construction and reconstruction of tracks or structures adjacent thereto.

(2) A railroad company (~~shall~~) must not operate (~~freight cars, locomotives or other rolling~~) any equipment over tracks (~~constructed subsequent to December 1, 1950, or tracks adjacent to buildings and structures constructed or reconstructed subsequent to that date, wherein~~) where the clearances are less than those (~~prescribed in~~) required by these rules, unless a commission order has been entered granting an exemption or an exemption is contained in these rules.

(3) (~~Where specific authority has been issued for deviation from these clearances for construction occurring subsequent to December 1, 1950, but prior to the effective date of the order in Cause No. T-8499 amending clearance rules of December 1, 1950, authority so issued shall remain in effect.~~

(4) ~~Overhead clearances authorized in these rules are applicable to tracks on which freight cars having a height to running board of fifteen feet six inches or less are transported. In the case of cars or loads exceeding fifteen feet six inches, WAC 480-60-070 and 480-60-080 must be complied with.~~

(5)) ~~Side clearances (authorized in these rules are applicable to tracks on which freight cars having an overall width))~~ are based on the assumption that equipment used on tracks is not greater than ten feet ten inches ((are transported)) wide. Height clearances are based on the assumption that equipment used on tracks is not higher than fifteen feet six inches. ((In the case of cars or loads exceeding)) If equipment exceeds ten feet ten inches in width, the railroad must comply with WAC ((480-60-070 and)) 480-60-080 ((must be complied with)).

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-60-012 Contacting the commission. You may contact the commission in writing, in person, by telephone, by e-mail, or by facsimile. The commission's location, mailing address, e-mail address and telefax number are found in WAC 480-09-100. The commission's internet home page address is found in WAC 480-04-050.

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-60-014 Rules of practice and procedure. The commission's rules governing administrative practices and procedures are in chapter 480-09 WAC. When a rule in this chapter conflicts with a rule in chapter 480-09 WAC, the rule in this chapter applies to railroad companies.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-5, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69)

WAC 480-60-020 Exemptions. (1) When the overhead or side clearances between a track and any building, structure, or facility are less than the minimum (~~prescribed in~~) required by these rules, but (~~where~~) were lawfully created prior to (~~the effective date thereof~~) October 9, 1969, the minimum clearances (~~prescribed herein shall~~) required by these rules must be provided whenever the building, structure, or facility is relocated or reconstructed(~~+~~). However, the (~~Washington utilities and transportation~~) commission will consider specific requests for the future continuance of (~~heretofore~~) these previously lawful clearances (~~at such reconstructed building, structure or facility when application thereof has been made as provided in subsection (3)~~) when the railroad or owner or manager of the building, structure, or facility applies for an exemption under the provision set forth below.

(2) Where restricted clearances are (~~necessary nothing herein shall be construed as preventing~~) unavoidable, the following moves are allowed without requesting an exemption from the commission:

(a) The movement of material over tracks when (~~such~~) the material is (~~necessary in~~) needed for the construction or maintenance of (~~such~~) the tracks(~~, nor in~~);

(b) The movement of special work equipment used in the

construction, maintenance or operation of the railroad(~~(, provided such movements shall be carried on under the conditions as are necessary to provide for the safety of all concerned; nor shall these rules be applicable, provided reasonable safety precautions are observed,)~~);

(c) Movements during periods of actual emergency due to wrecks, derailments, washouts and like conditions(~~(-~~

~~(3) If in any particular case, exemption from any of the requirements herein is deemed necessary by the carrier or industry concerned, the Washington utilities and transportation commission will consider the application of such carrier or industry for such exemptions when accompanied by a full statement of the conditions existing and the reason why such exemption is asked. Any exemption so granted will be limited to the particular case covered by the application.~~

~~(4) The Washington utilities and transportation commission reserves the right to modify any of the provisions of these regulations in specific cases, when, in its opinion, safety of railroad employees, public safety, convenience or necessity would be served by so doing.~~

~~(5))~~;

(d) All movements authorized in this subsection may be made only after all reasonable steps are taken to provide for the safety of all who could be harmed by the move.

(3) The commission may grant an exemption of any rule in this chapter, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.

(4) To request a rule exemption, a person must file with the commission a written request identifying the rule for which an exemption is sought, and giving a full explanation of the reason the exemption is requested.

(5) The commission will assign the request a docket number, if needed, and schedule the request for consideration at one of its regularly scheduled open meetings or, if appropriate under chapter 34.05 RCW, in an adjudication. The commission will notify the person requesting the exemption, and other interested persons, of the date the commission will consider the request.

(6) The commission will enter an order granting or denying the request, or setting it for hearing pursuant to chapter 480-09 WAC.

(7) Logging railroads, or any operation directly incident to logging, now subject to the provisions of the safety standards for logging operations in chapter 296-54 WAC, published by the division of safety of the department of labor and industries of the state of Washington, are exempted from these rules.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-5, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69)

WAC 480-60-030 Definitions. (~~(1) The overhead clearance is that distance measured along a line which is perpendicular to and joins a horizontal plane passing through the top of the highest rail and the lowest point of the overhead structure or obstruction.~~

~~(2) The side clearance is the shortest distance from centerline of track to a structure or appurtenances such as downspouts, ladders, or other obstructions at the side of the track.~~

~~(3) The track clearance is the shortest distance between the centerlines of adjacent tracks.~~

~~(4) Height of a freight car is the distance between the top of rail and the top of running board.~~

~~(5) Width of a freight car is twice the distance from the centerline of the car to the extreme outside part thereof.~~

~~(6) Icing platforms: The term "icing platform" shall include structures used in performing the service of icing, precooling, heating, ventilating and servicing of cars used in the handling of commodities requiring the above services.~~

~~(7) Constituted authority shall mean the commission.~~

~~(8) Overcrossing when used in this order means any point or place where a highway crosses a railroad by passing above the same. Clearances shall be as specified in WAC 480-60-040 (1) and (3).~~

~~(9) Undercrossing when used in this order means any point or place where a highway crosses a railroad by passing under the same. Existing laws pertaining to highways shall prevail.)~~ The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

"Car width" means twice the distance from the centerline of the car to its extreme outside part.

"Commission" means the Washington utilities and transportation commission.

"Icing platforms" means structures used in performing the service of icing, precooling, heating, ventilating and servicing of cars used in the handling of commodities requiring those services.

"Overcrossing" means any point or place where a highway crosses a railroad by passing above it.

"Overhead clearance" means the distance measured along a line which is perpendicular to and joins a horizontal plane passing through the top of the highest rail and a horizontal plane passing through the lowest point of the overhead structure or obstruction.

"Side clearance" means the shortest distance from centerline of track to a structure or appurtenances such as downspouts, ladders, or other obstructions at the side of the track.

"Track clearance" means the shortest distance between the centerlines of adjacent tracks.

"Walkways" means pathways located alongside or in the vicinity

of a railroad track, or on a trestle or bridge, that provide an area for a railroad employee to perform duties associated with the track, trestle or bridge.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-5, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69)

WAC 480-60-040 Overhead clearances.

(
(1)
Ove
rhea
d
clea
ranc
e in
gen
eral

(
2)
Ove
rhea
d
clea
ranc
e in
buil
ding
s

(1) General rule. Overhead clearances shall be at least twenty-two feet six inches unless one of the provisions in this section applies.

(2) Buildings.

The overhead clearance inside of entirely enclosed buildings may be reduced to eighteen feet, (~~provided that this clearance shall apply only to tracks terminating~~) if the tracks terminate within the building(, and further provided, that when). When an overhead clearance of less than twenty-two feet six inches is established ((therein)) in a building, all cars, locomotives or other equipment ((shall be brought to a)) must stop before entering ((such enclosed building, the)) it. The conditions provided to require ((such)) the stop ((to be approved by constituted authority)) must be approved by the commission. Engine houses and car shops are exempt from these regulations.

((Note: Engine houses and car shops are exempt from these regulations.))

(3) ~~((Overhead clearance))~~ Trains in tunnels, under

overcrossings, and on bridges.

Minimum overhead clearance in tunnels (~~and through~~), under overcrossings, and on bridges may be decreased to the extent defined by the half-circumference of a circle having a radius of eight feet and tangent to a horizontal line twenty-two feet six inches above top of rail at a point directly above the centerline of track.

(4) (~~Overhead clearance~~) All other structures.

Minimum overhead clearance (~~as prescribed in subsection (1) above~~) may be decreased to the extent defined by the half-circumference of a circle having a radius of eight feet six inches and tangent to a horizontal line twenty-two feet six inches above top of rail at a point directly over the centerline of track.

(5) Overhead clearance of wires.

All overhead wires (~~in general shall~~) must have a minimum vertical clearance of not less than that specified by the safety rules for the installation and maintenance of electric supply and communication lines as provided by the rules for electrical construction and the electrical and communication workers safety rules of the state of Washington.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-5, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69)

WAC 480-60-050 Side clearances. (1) (~~Side clearance in general~~ 8'6"

Note: To further reduce operational hazards, it is recommended that, wherever practicable, all posts, pipes, warning signs and other small obstructions be given a side clearance of ten feet.

~~Side clearance at platforms:))~~ General rule. Side clearances must be at least 8 feet 6 inches unless one of the provisions below applies. If exceptions in subsections (2) through (5) or (7) of this section apply, full side clearance of 8 feet 6 inches shall be provided on the opposite side of the track from the platform.

(2) Platforms - 8" or less above top of rail4'8"

(3) Platforms - 4'0" or less above top of rail7'3"

((Note: Full side clearance of 8'6" must be provided on the opposite side of the service track from the platform.))

(4) Platforms - 4'6" or less above top of rail - when used principally for loading or unloading refrigerator cars8'0"

(5) Icing platforms and supports7'3"

((Note: Full side clearance of 8'6" must be provided on the opposite side of the service track from the platform.))

(6) (~~Platforms other than above~~ 8'6"
Note:)) A retractable platform(~~s, either sliding or hinged,~~) which (~~are~~) is attached to a permanent structure (~~shall~~) must

be ~~((se))~~ designed so that when it is not in use no part of ~~((such retractable platform))~~ it shall fall within the clearance limits herein prescribed for a platform of that height above the top of the rail.

(7) Platforms - combinations of any above.

~~((Note:))~~ Platforms defined under (2) above may be combined with either (4) or (3) ~~((provided that))~~ if the lower platform ~~((presents))~~ has a level surface from a point not more than four feet eight inches from centerline of track to the face of the wall of the platform with which it is combined. No other combinations will be permitted.

~~(8) ((Platforms - extension of existing platforms.~~

Note: ~~Platforms which were constructed at lawful clearances prior to the effective date of this order may be extended at existing clearances upon approval of constituted authority.~~

~~(9) Side clearance -)~~ Bridges and tunnels8'0"

~~((10))~~ (9) Bridges and tunnels - upper section (see WAC 480-60-040(3)).

Side clearance ~~((in through))~~ on bridges and in tunnels may be decreased to the extent defined by the half circumference of a circle having a radius of eight feet and tangent to a horizontal line twenty-two feet six inches above top of rail directly above centerline of track.

~~((11))~~ (10) Bridges - lower section and structures 4' high or less. ~~((Through))~~ Bridges ~~((supporting track affected))~~, hand rails, water barrels and refuge platforms on bridges and trestles, water columns, oil columns, block signals, cattle guards and cattle chutes, or portions ~~((thereof))~~ of those items, four feet or less above top of rail may have clearances decreased to the extent defined by a line extending diagonally upward from a point level with the top of rail and five feet distant laterally from centerline of track to a point four feet above top of rail and eight feet distant laterally from centerline of track: Provided, That the minimum clearance for hand rails and water barrels ~~((shall))~~ must be seven feet six inches and the minimum clearance for fences of cattle guards ~~((shall))~~ must be six feet nine inches.

~~((Note:))~~ Unless previously approved, the clearances authorized in this subsection, except as provided for hand rails and water barrels, are not permitted on ~~((through))~~ bridges where the work of trainmen or yardmen requires them to be upon the decks of such bridges for the purpose of coupling or uncoupling cars in the performance of switching service on a switching lead.

~~((12) Side clearance - cattle guards and cattle chutes. (See subsection (11))~~

~~(13)(a) Side clearance - warehouse doors~~8'6"

~~(b))~~ (11) Side clearance - engine house and car repair shop doors7'6"

~~((14) Side clearance - hand rails on bridges and trestles. (See subsection (11))~~

~~(15))~~ (12) Side clearance - interlocking mechanism, switch boxes, ~~((ete))~~ and other similar devices projecting 4" or less above the top of the rail3'0"

~~((Switch boxes, switch operating mechanism necessary for the control and operation of signals and interlockers projecting four inches or less above top of rail.~~

~~(16)~~ Side clearance - mail cranes and train order stands when not in operative position8'6"

~~(17)~~ Side clearance - oil columns (see subsection (11)) 8'0"

~~(18))~~ (13) Side clearance - poles supporting trolley contact 8'3"

~~((Conductors supplying motive power to track affected - of bracket construction.~~

~~(19)~~ Side clearance - poles other than trolley poles....8'6"

~~(20))~~ (14) Side clearance - signals and switch stands 3' high or less when located between tracks where not ~~((practicable))~~ reasonably possible to provide clearances otherwise prescribed in these rules6'0"

~~((21))~~ (15) Side clearance - signals and switch stands other than above8'0"

~~((22)~~ Side clearance - tunnels. (See subsection (10)).8'0"

~~(23)~~ Side clearance - water barrels on bridges (see subsection (11)).

~~(24)~~ Side clearance - water columns. (See subsection (11))8'0"

~~(25))~~ (16) Side clearances on curved track. ~~((Note:))~~ Side clearances adjacent to curved track shall be increased as necessary to give the equivalent of tangent track clearances. As a general rule, the side clearance on curved track should be increased 1-1/2" for each degree of curvature.

~~((26))~~ (17) Side clearances - material or merchandise adjacent to tracks. ~~((.....8'6"~~

~~Note:))~~ No merchandise, material or other articles shall be placed or stored on ground or platforms adjacent to any track at a distance less than eight feet six inches from the centerline of track, except in cases of maintenance or emergency when such material is to be used within a reasonable period of time or where local conditions make compliance with this ~~((note))~~ rule impossible.

~~((27))~~ (18) Clearances - car puller units and appurtenances.

~~((Note:))~~ Clearances ~~((shall be only as))~~ for car puller units and appurtenances must be approved ~~((on application to))~~ by the commission through the process set forth in WAC 480-62-020.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-5, filed 6/6/69, effective

10/9/69)

WAC 480-60-060 Track clearances. (1) Track clearances - in general 14' 0"

The minimum distance between the centerlines of parallel standard gauge railroad tracks, which are used or proposed to be used for transporting cars, engines, motors, or like equipment, ~~((shall))~~ must be fourteen feet, except as ~~((hereinafter prescribed))~~ set forth below.

(2) Track clearances - main and subsidiary tracks ... 15' 0"

The centerline of any standard gauge track, except a main track or a passing track, parallel and adjacent to a main track or a passing track, ~~((shall))~~ must be at least fifteen feet from the centerline of ~~((such))~~ the main track or passing track~~((+ Provided,))~~ however, ~~((That))~~ where a passing track is adjacent to and at least fifteen feet distant from the main track, any other track may be constructed adjacent to ~~((such))~~ the passing track with 14 feet clearance ~~((prescribed in subsection (1)))~~.

(3) Track clearances - parallel team, house, or industry tracks 13' 0"

Minimum clearances between centerlines of parallel team, house, or industry tracks ~~((shall))~~ must be thirteen feet.

(4) Track clearances - parallel ladder or ladder and other track 20' 0"

The minimum clearance between centerlines of any standard gauge ladder track, constructed parallel to any other track, ~~((shall have a clearance of not less than))~~ must be twenty feet ~~((from the centerline of such other track))~~.

(5) Track clearances - existing tracks.

~~((Note:))~~ Tracks existing ~~((tracks))~~ prior to October 9, 1969, may be extended at clearances lawfully prescribed prior to ~~((the effective date of this order))~~ that date.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-5, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69)

WAC 480-60-080 Operation of excess dimension loads. (1) ~~((Cars containing lading in excess of 15'6" high and/or 5'5" from centerline of car.~~

~~Each open top car containing lading of a height exceeding fifteen feet six inches above top of rail, or which extends laterally more than five feet five inches from the centerline of the car, the movement of which is hereby authorized, shall be marked, stenciled or placarded, and such markings maintained in a legible condition to read:~~

~~"This car
EXCESS
HEIGHT"~~

~~or~~

~~"This
car EXCESS
WIDTH"~~

~~The words "EXCESS HEIGHT" or "EXCESS WIDTH" to occupy the greater portion of a space 7" x 10" enclosed within a 3/4" solid border. Letters and border to be of contrasting colors. All such required markings and placarding shall be placed on the side adjacent to the ladder or handholds near the floor line of the car at each of the four corners where practicable, and in addition one each of such signs shall be placed on each side of the load in a conspicuous position.~~

~~(2) Cars containing lading which extends laterally in excess of 5'5".~~

~~The movement of open top cars containing lading which extends laterally in excess of five feet five inches is hereby authorized only if the lading is of such a nature that it cannot practically be reduced in dimensions.~~

~~(3) Lading higher than 15'6" or extending laterally more than 5'5-1/2".~~

~~The movement of all open top cars having lading in excess of fifteen feet six inches in height, or which extends laterally in excess of five feet five and one-half inches from centerline of car will be authorized by written notice stating the total number of such cars and advising that no member of the train crew is required to ride on top of such high car or the side of any such wide car.~~

~~(4) A written notice shall be delivered to every train containing any car, the lading of which extends laterally in excess of 5'5-1/2" from the centerline of the car or in excess of 15'6" in height above top of rails, informing the crew of the train that the train includes such car or cars, stating the total number thereof and advising that no member of the train crew is required to ride on the side of any such wide car or top of any such high car.~~

~~(5)) No person may ride on the roof of any car, or on the side of an excess width car, or the side of a car with a load that extends more than 5'5" from centerline.~~

~~(2) The railroad company must provide written notice to the train stating the total number of cars with excess height or width.~~

~~(3) Notice to yard supervisors. Yard supervisors ((shall)) must be ((given notification)) notified sufficiently in advance of the arrival of ((such wide loads as described in subsection (3) as)) cars with excess height or width to enable them to take necessary precautions to safeguard employees in yard.~~

~~((6) Loads which cannot be passed over by employees.~~

~~Open top cars containing lading having an overall height in excess of fifteen feet six inches above top of rail, if otherwise in compliance with these requirements, and the nature of which precludes the possibility of employees passing over the cars, are exempt from the provisions of subsections (3), (4) and (5), but written notice must be given to all members of train crew informing~~

~~them of the presence of such loads.~~

~~(7) Exemptions.~~

~~The common carrier railroads are hereby authorized to move excess height loads and width loads, as described in subsection (1) over roads or portions thereof, without complying with the provisions of WAC 480-60-080, provided that clearances equivalent to the minimum herein prescribed for cars having a height of fifteen feet six inches and width of ten feet ten inches are maintained.)~~

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-5, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69)

WAC 480-60-090 Narrow gauge railroads transporting freight cars. (1) (~~Overhead and~~) Side clearances.

For the operation of equipment on narrow gauge tracks, (~~the minimum overhead clearance shall provide a distance above the top of the highest car operated not less than that provided in these rules for cars fifteen feet six inches in height operated on standard gauge tracks;~~) the side clearances and distances between centerlines of tracks (~~shall~~) must provide a distance from the sides of cars, or between the widest cars operated, not less than those distances (~~herein~~) provided by these rules for cars ten feet ten inches in width operated on standard gauge tracks.

(2) All other requirements of these rules, where applicable (~~shall~~), must be observed by narrow gauge railroads.

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 480-60-070	Marking of cars.
WAC 480-60-99002	Table--Class of highway.
WAC 480-60-99003	Diagram--Clearance diagram for underpasses two-way highway traffic.