

Train Accidents Cause Codes

(Appendix C of the FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports)

TRAIN OPERATIONS– HUMAN FACTORS

Select one of these codes and enter in Form F6180.54, 38 & 39. Causes
Numeric Listing

Brakes, Use of			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H008	Improper operation of train line air connections (bottling the air)	H021	Failure to apply hand brakes on car(s) (railroad employee)
H017	Failure to properly secure engine(s) (railroad employee)	H022	Failure to properly secure engine(s) or car(s) (non railroad employee)
H018	Failure to properly secure hand brake on car(s) (railroad employee)	H025	Failure to control speed of car using hand brake (railroad employee)
H019	Failure to release hand brakes on car(s) (railroad employee)	H099	Use of brakes, other (Provide detailed description in narrative)
H020	Failure to apply sufficient number of hand brakes on car(s) (railroad employee)		

Employee Physical Condition			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H101	Impairment of efficiency or judgment because of drugs or alcohol	H104	Employee asleep
H102	Incapacitation due to injury or illness	H199	Employee physical condition, other (Provide detailed description in narrative)
H103	Employee restricted in work or motion		

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Flagging, Fixed, Hand and Radio Signals			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H201	Blue Signal, absence of	H211	Radio communication, improper
H202	Blue Signal, imperfectly displayed	H212	Radio communication, failure to give/receive
H205	Flagging, improper or failure to flag	H217	Failure to observe hand signals given during a wayside inspection of moving train
H206	Flagging signal, failure to comply	H218	Failure to comply with failed equipment detector warning or with applicable train inspection rules.
H207	Hand signal, failure to comply	H219	Fixed signal (other than automatic block or interlocking signal), improperly displayed.
H208	Hand signal improper	H220	Fixed signal (other than automatic block or interlocking signal), failure to comply.
H209	Hand signal, failure to give/receive	H221	Automatic block or interlocking signal displaying a stop indication - failure to comply.*
H210	Radio communication, failure to comply	H222	Automatic block or interlocking signal displaying other than a stop indication - failure to comply.*
		H299	Other signal causes (Provide detailed description in narrative)

General Switching Rules			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H301	Car(s) shoved out and left out of clear	H311	Moving cars while loading ramp/hose/chute/cables/bridge plate, etc., not in proper position
H302	Cars left foul	H312	Passed couplers (other than automated classification yard)
H303	Derail, failure to apply or remove	H313	Retarder, improper manual operation
H304	Hazardous materials regulations, failure to comply	H314	Retarder yard skate improperly applied
H305	Instruction to train/yard crew improper	H315	Portable derail, improperly applied

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General Switching Rules			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H306	Shoving movement, absence of man on or at leading end of movement	H316	Manual intervention of classification yard automatic control system modes by operator
H307	Shoving movement, man on or at leading end of movement, failure to control	H317	Humping or cutting off in motion equipment susceptible to damage, or to cause damage to other equipment
H308	Skate, failure to remove or place	H318	Kicking or dropping cars, inadequate precautions
H309	Failure to stretch cars before shoving	H399	Other general switching rules (Provide detailed description in narrative)
H310	Failure to couple		

Main Track Authority			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H401	Failure to stop train in clear	H405	Train orders, track warrants, direct traffic control, track bulletins, radio, error in preparation, transmission or delivery
H402	Motor car or on-track equipment rules, failure to comply	H406	Train orders, track warrants, direct traffic control, track bulletins, written, error in preparation, transmission or delivery
H403	Movement of engine(s) or car(s) without authority (railroad employee)	H499	Other main track authority causes (Provide detailed description in narrative)
H404	Train order, track warrant, track bulletin, or timetable authority, failure to comply		

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Train Handling / Train Make-Up			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H501	Improper train make-up at initial terminal	H514	Failure to allow air brakes to fully release before proceeding (H005)
H502	Improper placement of cars in train between terminals	H515	Failure to properly cut-out brake valves on locomotives (H006)
H503	Buffing or slack action excessive, train handling	H516	Failure to properly cut-in brake valves on locomotives (H007)
H504	Buffing or slack action excessive, train make-up	H517	Dynamic brake, insufficient (H009)
H505	Lateral drawbar force on curve excessive, train handling	H518	Dynamic brake, excessive (H010)
H506	Lateral drawbar force on curve excessive, train make-up	H519	Dynamic brake, too rapid adjustment (H011)
H507	Lateral drawbar force on curve excessive, car geometry (short car/long car combination)	H520	Dynamic brake, excessive axles (H012)
H508	Improper train make-up	H521	Dynamic brake, other improper use (H013)
H509	Improper train inspection	H522	Throttle (power), improper use (H014)
H510	Automatic brake, insufficient (H001) -- see note after cause H599	H523	Throttle (power), too rapid adjustment (H015)
H511	Automatic brake, excessive (H002)	H524	Excessive horsepower (H016)
H512	Automatic brake, failure to use split reduction (H003)	H525	Independent (engine) brake, improper use (except actuation) (H023)
H513	Automatic brake, other improper use (H004)	H526	Failure to actuate off independent brake (H024)
		H599	Other causes relating to train handling or makeup (Provide detailed description in narrative)

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Speed			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H601	Coupling speed excessive	H605	Failure to comply with restricted speed in connection with the restrictive indication of a block or interlocking signal.
H602	Switching movement, excessive speed	H606	Train outside yard limits in non block territory, excessive speed
H603	Train on main track inside yard limits, excessive speed	H607	Failure to comply with restricted speed or its equivalent not in connection with a block or interlocking signal.
H604	Train outside yard limits, in block signal or interlocking territory, excessive speed	H699	Speed, other (Provide detailed description in narrative)

Switches, Use of			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H701	Spring Switch not cleared before reversing	H705	Moveable point switch frog improperly lined
H702	Switch improperly lined	H706	Switch improperly lined, radio controlled
H703	Switch not latched or locked	H707	Radio controlled switch not locked effectively
H704	Switch previously run through	H799	Use of switches, other (Provide detailed description in narrative)

Cab Signals			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H821	Automatic cab signal, failure to comply	H824	Automatic train control device cut out
H822	Automatic cab signal cut out	H899	Other causes relating to cab signals (provide detailed description in narrative)
H823	Automatic train-stop device cut out		

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Miscellaneous			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
H991	Tampering with safety/protective device(s)	H999	Other train operation/human factors (Provide detailed description in narrative)
H992	Operation of locomotive by uncertified/unqualified person	H99A	Human Factor - Signal - Train Control - Installation or maintenance error (shop).
H993	Human Factor - track	H99B	Human Factor - Signal - Train Control - Operator Input On-board computer incorrect data entry.
H994	Human Factor – Signal installation or maintenance error (field)	H99C	Human Factor - Signal - Train Control - Operator Input On-board computer incorrect data provided
H995	Human Factor - motive power and equipment	H99D	Computer system design error (non vendor)
H996	Oversized loads or Excess Height/Width cars mis-routed or switched.	H99E	Computer system configuration/management error (non vendor)
H997	Motorcar or other on-track equipment rules (other than main track authority) - Failure to Comply.		