

Train Accidents Cause Codes

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

MISCELLANEOUS CAUSES NOT OTHERWISE LISTED

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

Environment Conditions			
Causes	Code	Causes	Code
Extreme environmental condition - DENSE FOG	M104	Other extreme environmental conditions (Provide detailed description in narrative)	M199
Extreme environmental condition - EXTREME WIND VELOCITY	M105		
Extreme environmental condition - FLOOD	M103	Snow, ice, mud, gravel, coal, sand, etc. on track	M101
Extreme environmental condition - TORNADO	M102		

Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Accident			
Causes	Code	Causes	Code
Highway user cited for violation of highway-rail grade crossing traffic laws	M304	Highway user unawareness due to environmental factors (angle of sun, etc.)	M305
Highway user deliberately disregarded crossing warning devices	M308		
Highway user impairment because of drug or alcohol usage (as determined by local authorities, e.g., police)	M301	Malfunction, improper operation of train activated warning devices	M307
Highway user inability to stop due to extreme weather conditions (dense fog, ice or snow packed road, etc.)	M306		
Highway user inattentiveness	M302	Other Causes (Provide detailed description in narrative).	M399
Highway user misjudgment under normal weather and traffic conditions	M303		

Loading Procedures			
Causes	Code	Causes	Code
Improperly loaded car	M204	Miscellaneous loading procedures (Provide detailed description in narrative)	M299
Improperly loaded container/trailer on flat car	M208		
		Overloaded car	M203
Load fell from car	M202	Overloaded container/trailer on flat car	M207
Load shifted	M201		
		Trailer or container tie down equipment improperly applied	M206

Train Accidents Cause Codes

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

MISCELLANEOUS CAUSES NOT OTHERWISE LISTED

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

Other Miscellaneous			
Causes	Code	Causes	Code
Cause under active investigation by reporting railroad (Amended report will be forwarded when reporting railroad's active investigation has been completed.)	M505	Other miscellaneous causes (Provide detailed description in narrative)	M599
Failure by non railroad employee, e.g., industry employee, to control speed of car using hand brake	M504	Track damage caused by non-railroad interference with track structure	M506
Interference (other than vandalism) with railroad operations by non-railroad employee	M501	Vandalism of on-track equipment, e.g., brakes released	M502
Investigation complete, cause could not be determined (When using this code, the narrative must include the reason(s) why the cause of the accident/incident could not be determined.)	M507	Vandalism of track or track appliances, e.g., objects placed on track, switch thrown, etc.	M503

Unusual Operational Situations			
Causes	Code	Causes	Code
Automatic hump retarder failed to sufficiently slow car due to foreign material on wheels of car being humped	M407	Object or equipment on or fouling track (livestock)	M403
Emergency brake application to avoid accident	M401	Object or equipment on or fouling track (motor vehicle - other than highway-rail crossing)	M402
Fire, other than vandalism, involving on-track equipment	M406	Objects such as lading chains or straps fouling switches	M409
Interaction of lateral/vertical forces (includes harmonic rock off)	M405	Objects such as lading chains or straps fouling wheels	M410
Object or equipment on or fouling track - other than above (for vandalism, see code M503)	M404	Passed couplers (automated classification yard)	M411
		Yard skate slid and failed to stop cars	M408