

RAIL SAFETY AND STANDARDS BOARD

**Railway Group Standard
GO/RM3056**

**WORKING MANUAL
FOR RAIL STAFF
FREIGHT OPERATIONS**

Railway Group Standard

GO/RM3056

Issue Two

Date December 2003

WORKING MANUAL FOR RAIL STAFF

Freight Train Operations

Signatures removed from electronic version

Submitted by

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William A Graham
Standards Project Manager

Authorised by

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Anne E Blakeney
Acting Department Head
Railway Group Standards Management

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Freight Train Operations

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Issue Status

This Working Manual for Rail Staff GO/RM3056, issue 2, Freight Train Operations supersedes issue 1 dated April 1998 and also supersedes BR30054/2 Working Manual for Rail Staff, Section 2, Loading and Conveyance of Freight Traffic (Green Pages) dated June 1993.

Amendments

Amendments to this working manual will be issued as follows:

- publication in the Periodical Operating Notice (PON), which is issued on the first Saturday of February, April, August, October and December
- if an amendment needs to be published urgently and cannot wait until the next PON, it will appear in the Weekly Operating Notice
- complete re-issue of sections or individual pages. Material changes will be indicated with a black line in the margin.

Application

The requirements of this Railway Group Standard apply to the operation of trains on or passing on to Network Rail controlled infrastructure.

Train operators may, as best practice, apply the same arrangements on infrastructure they control.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERM	MEANING
18 comment lines	Feature in the TOPS system qualifying vehicle details in a train consist and allowing free-form messages
A.R.L	Above Rail Level (height in millimetres)
Authorised load	The load (maximum weight, length, and R.A.) as shown in a Network Rail region publication or special notice
Automatic brake	Power brake, usually air, provided to stop a train
Bonded vehicle/container	Vehicle/container sealed when loaded and requiring H.M. Customs authority before being opened
Brake force	The braking force necessary to stop a rail vehicle, measured in tonnes
Brake van	Vehicle provided when it is necessary for a guard to ride at the rear of a freight train. It must be provided with a handbrake, a brake pressure gauge and a brake valve.
CARKND	Three letter code in TOPS for vehicle type
Carrying capacity	The maximum weight a vehicle is permitted to carry
Competent person	A person who has been trained, examined and certificated appropriate to the duties carried out
Container	An intermodal transport unit constructed to a standard (usually specified by the ISO) suitable for conveyance by road, rail or sea.

TERM	MEANING
Control	Organisations run both by Network Rail Regions and Train Operating Companies to monitor and control train operations and performance
Cripple	The term applied to a vehicle which has been labelled as defective
Dangerous goods	Goods which are capable of posing a significant risk to health, safety or property when carried by rail and defined according to GO/RM3053 Working Manual for Rail Staff – Handling and Carriage of Dangerous Goods.
Distributor	Device allowing automatic operation of the air brakes on a rail vehicle
Driver only (DO)	A train that is worked only by a driver and does not have a guard.
Dunnage	Packing used to fill void spaces in a load
Enhanced Railfreight Intermodal Control (ERIC)	A computer system designed to control the movement of containers/swap-bodies etc. It is linked to TOPS to provide information regarding the containers loaded on vehicles.
Exceptional load	A load requiring special travel arrangements to be authorised, and a form RT3973 to be issued describing these arrangements, before being allowed to operate
Freight train	A train which normally complies with freight conditions with regard to brake force and classification. As a minimum will comprise a locomotive and one vehicle

TERM	MEANING
Gross Laden Weight (GLW)	The total or maximum weight of a vehicle, shown in tonnes.
Guard	A person who is assessed as competent and appointed by a train operator to carry out the responsibilities of a Guard, when one is required, as defined in the Rule Book, Working Manual for Rail Staff or company publication.
ISO	International Standards Organisation
Load unit	A term used to describe both containers and swapbodies.
Loads inspector	A person who has been trained, examined and certificated to carry out freight vehicle loads inspections.
Merry-Go-Round (MGR)	Trains formed of vehicles of TOPS CARKNDs HAA, HBA, HCA, HDA, HFA, HMA or HNA , that can operate through automatic loading and discharge points without the need to stop.
Network Rail standard loading gauge	A standard profile known as W6A. This applies on all Network Rail controlled infrastructure. Certain exceptions to this gauge are allowed.
Piggyback	A term which describes the loading and carriage of road trailers on specially designed vehicles
Piped vehicle	A vehicle that has an air pipe connection between headstocks, but does not have an automatic brake, this allows a continuous brake pipe throughout the train

TERM	MEANING
PPM	Planned Preventive Maintenance
RA	Route Availability. A code between 1 and 10 given to every vehicle and route, or part of a route, giving details of their maximum permissible axle loading
RIV	Agreement for the exchange of vehicles in international traffic
Rolling stock library (RSL)	A system linked to TOPS containing details of all rolling stock approved by Network Rail for operation on its Infrastructure
RT3973CON	Exceptional load form used for the carriage of containers and swapbodies
RT3973EXL	Exceptional load form used for the carriage of exceptional loads which do not come within the CON/HAW/NUC categories
RT3973HAW	Exceptional load form used for the carriage of heavy axle weight loads over routes with a lower axle weight rating
RT3973NUC	Exceptional load form used for the carriage of irradiated fuel flasks loaded on vehicles or containers
Stanchion	Solid round or hollow tube used to retain loads

TERM	MEANING
Swapbody	An intermodal transport unit conforming to European standards, (usually the UIC) which is suitable for conveyance by road or rail only. Swapbodies are of lighter construction than containers and have restrictions on stacking and craning. Carries a coding plate showing details of its gauge profile, and a code number, which indicates its height and width in millimetres.
Tare weight	The weight of a vehicle when empty
TIR	Transport International Routier
TOPS	Total Operations Processing System. A computer system containing information on train services and vehicles
Train document	A list containing the necessary information for the safe operation of the train. The list can be manually prepared or produced by TOPS
Train preparer	A person who is assessed as competent and appointed by a train operator to carry out the responsibilities of a train preparer, when one is required, as defined in the Rule Book, Working Manual for Rail Staff or company publication.
TRP	TOPS reporting point
UIC	International Union of Railways; a body which is responsible for the management and operation of the RIV agreement and international standards for through working

TERM	MEANING
Vehicle	Either: a) any individual unit of rolling stock forming part of a freight train and which is not capable of traction for example, wagon, tank wagon, brake van, passenger vehicle; or b) any self propelled vehicle (such as an engineering vehicle) capable of carrying a load.
VIBT	Vehicle inspection and brake test
Winch	Device for tensioning straps