

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
Numeric Listing

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

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

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

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

Other Miscellaneous			
Code	Causes	Code	Causes
M501	Interference (other than vandalism) with railroad operations by non railroad employee	M505	Cause under active investigation by reporting railroad (Amended report will be forwarded when reporting railroad's active investigation has been completed.)
M502	Vandalism of on-track equipment, e.g., brakes released	M506	Track damage caused by non-railroad interference with track structure
M503	Vandalism of track or track appliances, e.g., objects placed on track, switch thrown, etc.	M507	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.)
M504	Failure by non railroad employee, e.g., industry employee, to control speed of car using hand brake	M599	Other miscellaneous causes (Provide detailed description in narrative)