

# 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  
Alphabetic Listing

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

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

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

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

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General Switching Rules			
Causes	Code	Causes	Code
Car(s) shoved out and left out of clear	H301	Manual intervention of classification yard automatic control system modes by operator	H316
Cars left foul	H302	Moving cars while loading ramp/hose/chute/cables/bridge plate, etc., not in proper position	H311
Derail, failure to apply or remove	H303	Other general switching rules (Provide detailed description in narrative)	H399
Failure to couple	H310	Passed couplers (other than automated classification yard)	H312
Failure to stretch cars before shoving	H309	Portable derail, improperly applied	H315
Hazardous materials regulations, failure to comply	H304	Retarder yard skate improperly applied	H314
Humping or cutting off in motion equipment susceptible to damage, or to cause damage to	H317	Retarder, improper manual operation	H313
Humping or cutting off in motion equipment susceptible to damage, or to cause damage to other equipment	H317	Shoving movement, absence of man on or at leading end of movement	H306
Instruction to train/yard crew improper	H305	Shoving movement, man on or at leading end of movement, failure to control	H307
Kicking or dropping cars, inadequate precautions	H318	Skate, failure to remove or place	H308

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

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

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

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

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