CLEAN, SAFE AND SANITARY CAMP CARS

With respect to sleeping quarters (i.e., camp cars) the maintenance of way employees are given the same protection as workers covered under the Hours of Service Act. That is, all railroads are required to furnish sleeping quarters that provide an opportunity for rest which must be clean, safe and sanitary, and free from interruptions caused by noise under the control of the railroad.1/

The FRA has issued guidelines for clean, safe and sanitary camp cars. They are as follows:

1. Definitions Applicable To These Guidelines.

   (a) **Camp cars** means trailers and on-track vehicles, including outfit, camp, or bunk cars or modular homes mounted on flat cars, used to house or accommodate railroad employees. Wreck trains are not included.

   (b) **Employee** means any worker whose service is covered by the Hours of Service Act or who is defined as an employee for purposes of section 2(a)(3) of that Act.

   (c) **Lavatory** means a basin or similar vessel used primarily for washing of the hands, arms, face, and head.

   (d) **Nonwater carriage toilet facility** means a toilet facility not connected to a sewer.

   (e) **Number of employees** means the number of employees assigned to occupy the camp cars.

   (f) **Personal service room** means a room used for activities not directly connected with the production or service function performed by the carrier establishment. Such activities include, but are not limited to, first-aid, medical services, dressing, showering, toilet use, washing and eating.

   (g) **Potable water** means water that meets the quality standards prescribed in the U.S. Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards, published at 42 C.F.R. Part 72, or is approved for drinking purposes by the State or local authority having jurisdiction.

   (h) **Toilet facility** means a fixture maintained within a toilet room for the

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1/ The congressional Conference Report states that the section on sleeping quarters is not intended to cause elimination of camp cars. Therefore, if carriers can present persuasive evidence that the existing regulations would cause the elimination of camp cars, then the FRA shall review the guidelines as related to BMWE and determine (a) whether the carrier's claims are in fact correct; (b) whether the problem, if any, is best handled through a change in the noise standard or by a case-by-case review of specific situations (with waivers granted and conditioned as appropriate); and (c) whether a reasonable alternative exists so that a railroad would not override the employee's legitimate concerns and needs for uninterrupted rest.
purpose of defecation or urination, or both.

(i) **Toilet room** means a room maintained within or on the premises containing toilet facilities for use by employees.

(j) **Toxic material** means a material in concentration or amount of such toxicity as to constitute a recognized hazard that is causing or is likely to cause death or serious physical harm.

(k) **Urinal** means a toilet facility maintained within a toilet room for the sole purpose of urination.

(l) **Water closet** means a toilet facility maintained within a toilet room for the purpose of both defecation and urination and which is flushed with water.

(m) **Leq (8)** means the equivalent steady sound level which in 8 hours would contain the same acoustic energy as the time-varying sound level during the same time period.

2. **Housekeeping.**

   (a) All camp cars should be kept clean to the extent that the nature of the work allows.

   (b) To facilitate cleaning, every floor, working place, and passageway should be kept free from protruding nails, splinters, loose boards, and unnecessary holes and openings.

3. **Waste Disposal.**

   (a) Any exterior receptacle used for putrescible solid or liquid waste or refuse should be so constructed that it does not leak and may be thoroughly cleaned and maintained in a sanitary condition. Such a receptacle should be equipped with a solid tight-fitting cover, unless it can be maintained in a sanitary condition without a cover. This requirement does not prohibit the use of receptacles designed to permit the maintenance of a sanitary condition without regard to the aforementioned requirements.

   (b) All sweepings, solid or liquid wastes, refuse, and garbage should be removed in such a manner as to avoid creating a menace to health and as often as necessary or appropriate to maintain a sanitary condition.

4. **Vermin Control.**

   (a) Camp cars should be so constructed, equipped, and maintained, so far as reasonably practicable, as to prevent the entrance or harborage of rodents, insects, or
other vermin. A continuing and effective extermination program should be instituted
where their presence is detected.

5. Water supply.

(a) **Potable water.** (1) Potable water should be adequately and conveniently
provided to all employees in camp cars for drinking, washing of the person, cooking,
washing of cooking or eating utensils, washing of food preparation or processing
premises, and personal service rooms where such facilities are provided.

(2) Potable drinking water dispensers should be designed, constructed,
and serviced so that sanitary conditions are maintained, should be capable of being
closed, and should be equipped with a tap.

(3) Open containers such as barrels, pails, or tanks for drinking water
from which the water must be dipped or poured, whether or not they are fitted with a
cover, should not be used.

(4) A common drinking cup and other common utensils should not be
used.

(b) The distribution lines should be capable of supplying water at sufficient
operating pressures to all taps for normal simultaneous operation.

6. Toilet facilities.

(a) **Toilet facilities.** (1) Toilet facilities adequate for the number of
employees housed in the camp car should be provided in convenient and safe location(s),
and separate toilet rooms for each sex should be provided in accordance with table 1 of
this paragraph. The number of facilities to be provided for each sex should be based on
the number of employees of that sex for whom the facilities are furnished. Where toilet
rooms will be occupied by no more than one person at a time, can be locked from the
inside, and contain at least one water closet or nonwater carriage toilet facility, separate
toilet rooms for each sex need not be provided. Where such single-occupancy rooms
have more than one toilet facility, only one such facility in each toilet room should be
counted for the purpose of Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of employees</th>
<th>Minimum No. of toilet facilities(^1/)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 10..................</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 25..................</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 to 49..................</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 to 100..................</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over 100..................</td>
<td>2(^2/)</td>
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\(^1/\)Where toilet facilities will not be used by women, urinals may be provided instead of water closets or
nonwater carriage toilet facilities, except that the number of water closets or facilities in such cases should
not be reduced to less than 2/3 of the minimum specified.
2/One additional fixture for each additional 25 employees.

(2) When toilet facilities are provided in separate cars, toilet rooms should have a window space of not less than 6 square feet in area opening directly to the outside area or otherwise be satisfactorily ventilated. All outside openings should be screened with material that is equivalent to or better than 16-mesh. No fixture, water closet, nonwater carriage toilet facility or urinal should be located in a compartment used for other than toilet purposes.

(3) The sewage disposal method should not endanger the health of employees.

(a) **Construction of toilet rooms.** (1) Each water closet should occupy a separate compartment with a door and walls or partitions between fixtures sufficiently high to assure privacy.

(2) Nonwater carriage toilet facilities should be located within 50 feet, but as far as practical on the same side of the track on which camp cars are sited.

(3) Each toilet facility should be lighted naturally, or artificially by a safe type of lighting available at all hours of the day and night. Flashlights can be substituted by the railroad when nonwater carriage toilet facilities are used.

(4) An adequate supply of toilet paper should be provided in each water closet, or nonwater carriage toilet facility, unless provided to the employees individually.

(5) Toilet facilities should be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. They should be cleaned regularly when occupied. In the case of nonwater carriage toilet facilities, they should be cleaned and changed regularly.

7. **Lavatories.**

(a) Lavatories should be made available to all rail employees housed in camp cars.

(b) Each lavatory should be provided with either hot and cold running water or tepid running water.

(c) Unless otherwise provided by agreement, hand soap or similar cleansing agents should be provided.

(d) Unless otherwise provided by agreement, individual hand towels or sections thereof, of cloth or paper, warm air blowers or clean individual sections of continuous cloth toweling, convenient to the lavatories, should be provided.

(e) One lavatory basin per 6 employees should be provided in shared
facilities.

8. **Showering facilities.**

   (a) Showering facilities should be provided in the following ratio: one shower should be provided for each 10 employees of each sex, or numerical fraction thereof, who are required to shower during the same shift.

   (b) Shower floors should be constructed of nonslippery materials. Floor drains should be provided in all shower baths and shower rooms to remove waste water and facilitate cleaning. All junctions of the curbing and the floor should be sealed. The walls and partitions of shower rooms should be smooth and impervious to the height of splash.

   (c) An adequate supply of hot and cold running water should be provided for showering purposes. Facilities for heating water should be provided.

   (d) **Showers.** 1. Unless otherwise provided by agreement, body soap or other appropriate cleansing agent convenient to the showers should be provided.

      2. Showers should be provided with hot and cold water feeding a common discharge line.

      3. Unless otherwise provided by agreement, employees who use showers should be provided with individual clean towels.

9. **Kitchens, dining hall and feeding facilities.**

   (a) In all camp cars where central dining operations are provided, the food handling facilities should be clean and sanitary.

   (b) When separate kitchen and dining hall cars are provided, there should be a closable door between the living or sleeping quarters into a kitchen or dining hall car.

10. **Consumption of food and beverages on the premises.**

    (a) **Application.** This paragraph should apply only where employees are permitted to consume food or beverages, or both, on the premises.

    (b) **Eating and drinking areas.** No employee should be allowed to consume food or beverages in a toilet room or in any area exposed to a toxic material.

    (c) **Sewage disposal facilities.** All sewer lines and floor drains from camp cars should be connected to public sewers where available and practical, unless the cars are equipped with holding tanks that are emptied in a sanitary manner.
(d) **Waste disposal containers provided for the interior of camp cars.** An adequate number of receptacles constructed of smooth, corrosion resistant, easily cleanable, or disposable materials, should be provided and used for the disposal of waste food. Receptacles should be provided with a solid tightfitting cover unless sanitary conditions can be maintained without use of a cover. The number, size and location of such receptacles should encourage their use and not result in overfilling. They should be emptied regularly and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

(e) **Sanitary storage.** No food or beverages should be stored in toilet rooms or in an area exposed to a toxic material.

(f) **Food handling.** (1) All employee food service facilities and operations should be carried out in accordance with sound hygienic principles. In all places of employment where all or part of the food service is provided, the food dispensed should be wholesome, free from spoilage, and should be processed, prepared, handled, and stored in such a manner as to be protected against contamination.

(2) No person with any disease communicable through contact with food or food preparation items should be employed or permitted to work in the preparation, cooking, serving, or other handling of food, foodstuffs, or materials used therein, in a kitchen or dining facility operated in or in connection with camp cars.

11. **Lighting.** Each habitable room in a camp car should be provided with adequate lighting.

12. **First Aid.** Adequate first aid kits should be maintained and made available for railway employees housed in camp cars for the emergency treatment of injured persons.

13. **Shelter.**

(a) Every camp car should be constructed in a manner that will provide protection against the elements.

(b) All steps, entry ways, passageways and corridors providing normal entry to or between camp cars should be constructed of durable weather resistant material and properly maintained. Any broken or unsafe fixtures or components in need of repair should be repaired or replaced promptly.

(c) Each camp car used for sleeping purposes should contain at least 48 square feet of floor space for each occupant. At least a 7-foot ceiling measured at the entrance to the car should be provided.

(d) Beds, cots, or bunks and suitable storage facilities such as wall
lockers or space for foot lockers for clothing and personal articles should be provided in every room used for sleeping purposes. Except where partitions are provided, such beds or similar facilities should be spaced not closer than 36 inches laterally (except in modular units which cannot be spaced closer than 30 inches) and 30 inches end to end, and should be elevated at least 12 inches from the floor. If double-deck bunks are used, they should be spaced not less than 48 inches both laterally and end to end. The minimum clear space between the lower and upper bunk should be not less than 27 inches. Triple-deck bunks should not be used.

(e) Floors should be of smooth and tight construction and should be kept in good repair.

(f) All living quarters should be provided with windows the total of which should be not less than 10 percent of the floor area. At least one-half of each window designed to be opened should be so constructed that it can be opened for purposes of ventilation. Durable opaque window coverings should be provided to reduce the entrance of light during sleeping hours.

(g) All exterior openings should be effectively screened with 16-mesh material. All screen doors should be equipped with self-closing devices.

(h) In a facility where workers cook, live, and sleep, a minimum of 90 square feet per person should be provided. Sanitary facilities should be provided for storing and preparing food.

(i) In camp cars where meals are provided, adequate facilities to feed employees within a 60-minute period should be provided.

(j) All heating, cooking, ventilation, air conditioning and water heating equipment should be installed in accordance with applicable local regulations governing such installations.

(k) Every camp car should be provided with equipment capable of maintaining a temperature of at least 68 degrees F. during normal cold weather and no greater than 78 degrees F., or 20 degrees below ambient, whichever is warmer, during normal hot weather.

14. **Location.** Camp cars occupied exclusively by individuals employed for the purpose of maintaining the right-of-way of a railroad should be located as far as practical from where "switching or humping operations" occur, as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 228.101(c)(3) and (c)(4), respectively. Every reasonable effort should be made to locate these camp cars at least one-half mile (2,640 feet) from where such switching or humping occurs. In the event employees housed in camp cars located closer than one-half mile (2,640 feet) from where such switching or humping of cars takes place are exposed to an unusual hazard at such location, the employees involved should be housed in other suitable accommodations. An unusual hazard means an unsafe
condition created by an occurrence other than normal switching or humping.

15. **General provisions.** (a) Sleeping quarters are not considered to be "free of interruptions caused by noise under the control of the railroad" if noise levels attributable to noise sources under the control of the railroad exceed a Leq (18) value of 55 dba, with windows closed and exclusive of cooling, heating, and ventilating equipment.

(b) A railroad should, within 48 hours after notice of noncompliance with these recommendations, fix the deficient condition(s). Where holidays or weekends intervene, the railroad should fix the condition within 8 hours after the employees return to work. In the event such condition(s) affects the safety or health of the employees, such as water, cooling, heating or eating facilities, the railroad should provide alternative arrangements for housing and eating until the noncomplying condition is fixed.

Appendix C- Guidelines For Clean, safe, and Sanitary Camp Cars

49 U.S.C. § 21106
49 C.F.R. Part 228