



GCOR 6.5 – Field Briefing

In 2008, General Code of Operating Rules Rule 6.5 – Handling Cars Ahead of Engine was changed on BNSF by adding a new sentence: ***“The employee providing protection for the movement shall not engage in any task unrelated to the movement.”***

Recently, Federal Railroad Administration inspectors have written violations when crew members were observed talking on a radio while operating a motor vehicle, (e.g., car, van, ATV, Kubota, etc.) and providing protection for a shoving movement.

So what does this mean to me?

Employees who are protecting a shoving movement must refrain from talking on the radio while operating a motor vehicle unless an emergency exists.

This does not mean that crew members are prohibited from using a motor vehicle to protect the point of a shove move.

Example: A crew member may, while stopped, give a command to commence a shove move and then drive alongside or ahead of the leading end of the movement. *For the employee providing protection to give additional car counts or information over the radio, the vehicle must first be stopped. This does not require the shove move to be stopped, only the vehicle the employee is driving.*

FAQ

Q. Can a crew member ride in a motor vehicle while someone else is driving and provide radio commands for a shove move?

A. Yes. The only time an employee is restricted from talking on the radio while protecting a shove is when he or she is operating the controls of a motor vehicle.

Q. While protecting a shove move and operating the controls of a motor vehicle, if an emergency requires the shove movement to stop, must I first stop driving the motor vehicle?

A. No. Emergency information, such as a command to stop may be transmitted at any time.

Q. After providing initial information to the engineer or Remote Control Operator and then driving alongside the shove move, does the shove move have to stop for me to radio additional car counts?

A. No. The move may continue as long as the movement has not reached a point of half the distance initially specified.