

Vehicle/Track Interaction Safety Limits

Parameter	Safety Limit	Filter/Window	Requirements
Wheel/Rail Forces¹			
Single Wheel Vertical Load Ratio	≥ 0.1	5 ft	No wheel of the equipment shall be permitted to unload to less than 10% of the static vertical wheel load. The static vertical wheel load is defined as the load that the wheel would carry when stationary on level track. The vertical wheel load limit shall be increased by the amount of measurement error.
Single Wheel L/V Ratio	$\leq \frac{\tan\delta - .5}{1 + .5\tan\delta}$	5 ft	The ratio of the lateral force that any wheel exerts on an individual rail to the vertical force exerted by the same wheel on the rail shall be less than the safety limit calculated for the wheel's flange angle (δ).
Net Axle L/V Ratio	≤ 0.5	5 ft	The net lateral force exerted by any axle on the track shall not exceed 50% of the static vertical load that the axle exerts on the track.
Truck Side L/V Ratio	≤ 0.6	5 ft	The ratio of the lateral forces that the wheels on one side of any truck exert on an individual rail to the vertical forces exerted by the same wheels on that rail shall be less than 0.6.
Accelerations			
Carbody Lateral ²	≤ 0.5 g peak-to-peak	10 Hz 1 sec window	The peak-to-peak accelerations, measured as the algebraic difference between the two extreme values of measured acceleration in a one second time period, shall not exceed 0.5 g.
Carbody Vertical ²	≤ 0.6 g peak-to-peak	10 Hz 1 sec window	The peak-to-peak accelerations, measured as the algebraic difference between the two extreme values of measured acceleration in a one-second time period, shall not exceed 0.6 g.
Truck Lateral ³	≤ 0.4 g RMS mean-removed	10 Hz 2 sec window	Truck hunting ⁴ shall not develop below the maximum authorized speed.

¹The lateral and vertical wheel forces shall be measured with instrumented wheelsets with the measurements processed through a low pass filter with a minimum cut-off frequency of 25 Hz. The sample rate for wheel force data shall be at least 250 samples/sec.

²Carbody lateral and vertical accelerations shall be measured near the car ends at the floor level.

³Truck accelerations in the lateral direction shall be measured on the truck frame. The measurements shall be processed through a filter having a pass band of 0.5 to 10 Hz.

⁴Truck hunting is defined as a sustained cyclic oscillation of the truck which is evidenced by lateral accelerations in excess of 0.4 g root mean square (mean-removed) for 2 seconds.

[63 FR 34029, June 22, 1998; 63 FR 46102, Aug. 28, 1998]

§213.334 Ballast; general.

Unless it is otherwise structurally supported, all track shall be supported by material which will—

(a) Transmit and distribute the load of the track and railroad rolling equipment to the subgrade;

(b) Restrain the track laterally, longitudinally, and vertically under dynamic loads imposed by railroad rolling equipment and thermal stress exerted by the rails;

(c) Provide adequate drainage for the track; and

(d) Maintain proper track crosslevel, surface, and alinement.