

PROTECTING SHOVING MOVEMENTS

When a shoving movement is to be made, 49 CFR § 218.99 includes some very specific requirements that help keep employees and equipment safe.

The requirements, in brief, are as follows:

- **Job Briefing:** Rolling equipment shall not be shoved or pushed until the locomotive engineer participating in the move has been briefed by the employee who will direct the move. The job briefing shall include the means of communication to be used between the locomotive engineer and the employee directing the move and how point protection will be provided.
Note: Job briefings can be held at the beginning of the shift or at any time during the performance of work, as long as they include the necessary requirements as stated above.
- **No Unrelated Tasks:** During the shoving or pushing movement, the employee directing the movement shall not engage in any task unrelated to the oversight of the shoving or pushing movement.
Note: This means that the employee's undivided attention is on the movement until it is brought to a stop, period!
- **Point Protection:** When rolling equipment or a lite locomotive consist is shoved or pushed, point protection shall be provided by a crewmember or other qualified employee by: ...
Note: Each railroad's rules will govern how this point protection can and will be provided.
- **Visually Determining the Track is Clear:** The determination that the track is clear may be made with the aid of monitored cameras or other technological means, provided that it and the procedures for use provide an equivalent level of protection to that of a direct visual determination by a crewmember or other qualified employee properly positioned to make the observation.

49 CFR § 218.99 (a)(1) states: Each railroad shall adopt and comply with an operating rule which complies with the requirements of this section. When any person including, but not limited to, each railroad, railroad officer, supervisor, and employee violates any requirement of an operating rule which complies with the requirements of this section, that person shall be considered to have violated the requirements of this section.

The above information is a brief outline of the federal requirements for the protection of shoving movements on rail. For a full description, please reference [49 CFR § 218.99](#) in its entirety.