

**भारत सरकार (GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)**  
**रेल मंत्रालय (MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)**  
**रेलवे बोर्ड (RAILWAY BOARD)**

No. 2024/CE-II/TK/Track Tolerance

New Delhi, dated 30.10.2024

**Principal Chief Engineer,  
All Zonal Railways**

**Sub: Up-gradation of Track Maintenance Standards of Goods Loop Lines**

1. IRPWM Para no. 205, 209 and 212 stipulate the track standards for 'other loop lines' i.e., other than passenger loop lines. The extract of same is reproduced below:

**Rails:** 60kg/ 52kg SH or new 60kg with the approval of PCE

**Sleeper:** Sleeper with density 1540 no. per km or 1660 no. per km with the approval of PCE

**Ballast cushion:** 250 mm

2. Railways are replacing existing overriding switches with thick web switches gradually. Recently, an umbrella work costing ₹14,500 Cr has also been sanctioned to carry out the improvement works in yards. Further, upgraded track structure for passenger loop lines has already been stipulated vide ACS 21 dated 30.07.2024 to IRPWM, with improved track maintenance tolerances vide Railway Board vide letter no. 2024/CE-II/TK/Track Tolerance, dated 28.10.2024.
3. To improve track maintenance of 'other loop lines', it has been decided by Board, in first phase, to upgrade track structure of those '*goods loop lines the derailment on which may affect the traffic movement on main lines or passenger loop lines*'.  
*which may affect the traffic movement on main lines or passenger loop lines*'.
4. The up-graded track structure for above goods lines shall be as under:

**Rails:** 60kg/ 52kg SH or new 60kg with the permission of PCE; preferably LWR

**Sleeper:** Sleeper with density 1540 no. per km or 1660 no. per km with the approval of PCE

**Ballast cushion:** 250 mm, out of which min 150 mm shall be clean cushion to enable machine tamping.

5. With above up-graded track structure, the following shall be the track parameters as a good maintenance practice for '*goods loop lines the derailment on which may affect the traffic movement on main lines or passenger loop lines*'.

**(a) Gauge:**

(a) On straight Track	-8 mm to +15 mm
(b) On curves with radius 440m or more including 1:12 points & crossing turnout curve	-8 mm to +21 mm
(c) On curves with radius less than 440m	up to +27 mm

**(b) Twist: 5 mm/m**

- 5.1 The measurements as indicated above are in the floating condition as measurements in the loading condition are not possible in loop lines in absence of TRC run in loop lines.
- 5.2 For achieving above track parameters, track should be mandatorily maintained by Track Machines .
6. Railways are therefore advised to achieve the above track parameters in those '*goods loop lines the derailment on which may affect the traffic movement on main lines or passenger loop lines*', in next 30 months after carrying out required improvement works. The railways should accordingly plan and get works sanctioned. However, till improvement works are carried out, in no case track maintenance parameters be allowed to deteriorate beyond the limits prescribed in Para 526 of IRPWM for specific speeds.
7. This is issued with the approval of competent authority (MI).

**(Saurabh Jain)**  
**Director, Civil Engg. (Plg.)**  
**Railway Board**