

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

No.TC-I/2019/201/6 (3298964/3352597)

New Delhi, dt.07.11.2024

**General Manager**  
All Zonal Railways

**Sub: Free time for loading/unloading of consignment handled by crane for EOL terminals**

Ref: (i) Rates Master Circular/Demurrage-Wharfage-Waiver/2016/0 and its amendments  
(ii) Corrigendum No.5 to Rates Master Circular/Demurrage-Wharfage-Waiver/2016/0.

Free time for crane consignment in case of Goods Sheds/sidings (other than steel plants) which do not work on Engine-on-load (EOL) basis are prescribed vide Board's circular under reference (ii).

Free time in case of EOL terminals are prescribed vide Para 2.5 of Rates Master Circular/Demurrage-Wharfage-Waiver/2016/0.

The matter regarding free time for crane consignment at EOL terminals has been examined and following has been decided -

- (a) Crane Consignments should be kept out of the purview of EOL scheme. The EOL policy prescribed vide Freight Marketing Circular No.16 of 2023 may be modified by inserting sub para 4.2.2 as given below-

*"4.2.2: 'Crane consignment' should be kept out of the purview of EOL scheme. Free time for handling of crane consignment will be permitted as prescribed by Board from time to time.*

*However, for sake of clarity, at terminals which handled crane consignment(under non-EOL system) along with some other commodities handled under EOL system can be partly notified under EOL and shall be dealt as per provision defined under para 4.3.2, 4.3.5 and 6.2 of policy".*

- (b) Free time for crane consignment in case of sidings/steel plants/GCTs etc., which are presently under EOL or qualify for EOL, will be permitted as per Board's circular under reference (ii), as given below -

	Loading	Unloading
Consignment handled by crane	5 hours (upto 30 wagons)	6 hours (upto 30 wagons)
	7 hours (more than 30 wagons)	8 hours (more than 30 wagons)

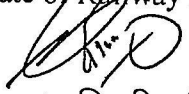
- (c) Zonal Railways should conduct time & motion study to ascertain time taken in loading and unloading of consignment by crane and furnish their report/suggestion within three months, for review.

These guidelines will be effective from 11.11.2024.

All other extant guidelines, including free time for seven old steel plants and free time for steel plants other than seven old, as per para 2.3 and 2.4 of Board's circular under reference (i) will continue to be applicable unchanged.

Extant guidelines regarding permissible free time for loading/unloading of wagons at different types of terminals have been tabulated in the Annexure.

This issue in consultation with Traffic Transportation directorate and with the concurrence of Finance directorate of Railway Board.



(यासिर रिज़वी)

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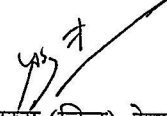
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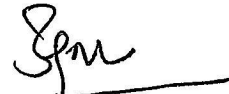
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(यासिर रिज़वी)

उप निदेशक (माल भाड़ा विपणन)  
रेलवे बोर्ड



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संयुक्त निदेशक (दर-1)  
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## PERMISSIBLE FREE TIME FOR LOADING/UNLOADING OF WAGONS AT DIFFERENT TYPES OF TERMINALS (in hours)

Railway Terminals and Private/Assisted sidings other than Steel Plants (which do not work on EOL basis) (refer Para 2.2 of Chapter-I of Rates Master Circular/Demurrage-Waiver/2016/0)															
Open wagons				Flat wagons				Hopper wagons		Covered wagons			Tank wagons		
Loading		Unloading		Loading		Unloading		Loadin g	Unloadi ng		Loading/ Unloading		Loading	Unloading	
Mechanized	Manual	Mechanized	Manual	Mechanized	Manual	Mechanized	Manual	05	2 ½	Other than BCNHL	05 (1 to 20 wagons)	Black Oil^	07	Mechanized	Mechanized
											07 (21 to 30 wagons)			07 (upto 29 wagons)	
											09 (31 wagons & more)				
05	09	07	09	06	08	N.A	08			BCNHL	05 (1 to 20 wagons)	Other than Black Oil	06		06 (upto 29 wagons)
											07 (21 to 30 wagons)				
											09 (31 to 45 wagons)				
											11 (46 wagons & more)				
Military wagons				Container @		Consignment handled by crane# (irrespective of type of wagons) (Corrigendum No.5 dt.03.12.2018)				Livestock		BCFC wagons (Corrigendum .2 to Rates Circular 21 of 2018)			
	Loading		Unloading	Loading	Unloading	Loading		Unloading		Loading	Unloading	Mechanized Loading	Mechanized Unloading		
	Manual		Manual												
KM		04		04		03	03	05 (upto 30 wagons)		06 (upto 30 wagons)		04	04	13	16
Other than KM like DBKM etc.	05 (upto 20 wagons)		05 (upto 20 wagons)		07 (more than 30 wagons)			08 (more than 30 wagons)							
	07 (21 wagons & more)		07 (21 wagons & more)												

@)This free time is relevant in the case of Indo-Nepal traffic. Permissible free time in case of double operation of container traffic i.e. unloading followed by loading in the same wagons, shall be 5 hours. However, in the case of container commodity handled by sling cranes, the free time for loading/unloading will be 6 hours for single operation and 8 hours for double operation.

# Free time mentioned here will be applicable when consignment is handled by crane, irrespective of the free time prescribed for different types of wagons.

<sup>^</sup>Black Oil- Light diesel oil, furnace oil, carbon black feed stock, low sulphur heavy stock, heavy petroleum stock, vacuum gas oil etc.

- Loading by pay loader is a type of mechanized loading.
- In cases where both manual and mechanical type of operations are used of loading/unloading of a rake, the more restrictive free time i.e. free time for mechanized loading/unloading will be permitted.
- Loading of stationary wagons through mechanized movable weight-o-meter wagon loader is a type of 'mechanized loading'.
- The above mentioned free time will be equally applicable for BG as well as MG wagons.
- N.A. stands for 'not applicable'.

Engine-On-Load Terminal (Freight Terminals/Sidings/Steel Plants/Goods sheds) <i>((refer Para 2.5 of Chapter-I of Rates Master Circular/Demurrage-Wharfage-Waiver/2016/0 and Corrigendum dt.30.06.2016; No.19 dt.12.03.2021 &amp; No.51 dt.29.02.2024))</i>										
Open Rake			Flat Rake		Hopper Rake		Covered Rake		Tank Rake	
	Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading
Steel	06	05	06	06	03	02	06	06	05	05
Others*	03									
<i>*In case of bagged consignment, if open wagons (BOX/BOXN etc.) are supplied for loading of bagged consignment, Zonal Railways may increase the free time from 03 hours to 06 hours)</i>										
Consignment handled by crane <i>(Corrigendum No.54 dt.07.11.2024)</i>										
Loading			Unloading							
05 (upto 30 wagons)			06 (upto 30 wagons)							
07 (more than 30 wagons)			08 (more than 30 wagons)							

**When Hopper wagons are supplied in place of Open wagons**

*(Corrigendum No.42 dt.28.06.2023 & No.45 dt.27.12.2023)(Validity- 31.12.2024)*

<b>Goods Sheds, Private Sidings etc.</b> (non EOL)				<b>EOL Terminal</b>		<b>Steel Plants other than Seven Old Steel Plants</b> (non-EOL)		<b>Seven Old Steel Plants</b>	
Loading		Unloading		Loading	Unloading	Loading		Unloading	
Mechanized	Manual	Mechanized	Manual	05	07	12		08	14
05	09	07	09						

*Note- Whenever a customer places an indent for Open wagons and due to non availability of Open wagons, if Hopper wagons (e.g. BOBY, BOBR, BOBS, BOBYN, BOBRN etc.) are supplied against such indent, then free time as prescribed for Open wagons (given below) will be applicable, irrespective of the commodity handled. However, in case Hopper wagons are handled on hopper system, then free time as prescribed for Hopper wagons will be applicable.*

Seven Old Steel Plants (refer Para 2.3 of Chapter-I of Rates Master Circular/Demurrage-Wharfage-Waiver/2016/0) (Corrigendum No.31 dt.03.08.2022.; No.37 dt.28.02.2023; No.43 dt.31.08.2023; No.49 dt.27.02.2024) (Validity - 28.02.2025)												
	Open wagons				Flat wagons		Hopper wagons		Covered wagons		Tank wagons	
	Loading		Unloading		Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading
Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant	Mechanized	Manual	Mechanized	Manual	12	10	N.A.	2 ½	12	12	09	09
	10	12	08	08								
Bhillai Steel Plant	16		08		16 (upto 35 wagons)	12 (upto 35 wagons)	N.A	03	24	24	24	24
					18 (36 wagons & more)	14 (36 wagons & more)						
Durgapur Steel Plant	20 (upto 45 wagons)		10 (upto 45 wagons)		20 (upto 45 wagons)	10 (up to 45 wagons)	N.A.	4 ½ (upto 45 wagons)	22	24	22	24
Indian Iron and Steel Company												
Bokaro Steel Plant	Steel	22 (upto 35 wagons)	10 (upto 35 wagons)		22 (upto 35 wagons)	12 (upto 35 wagons)	N.A.	4 ½ (upto 45 wagons)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Rourkela Steel Plant		24 (36 wagons & more)										
Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd.	Other than Steel	08 (upto 35 wagons)	12 (36 wagons & more)		24 (36 wagons & more)	14 (36 wagons & more)		5 ½ (46 wagons & more)				
		10 (36 wagons & more)										

<b>Steel Plants other than seven old steel plants (non-EOL)</b> (refer Para 2.4 of Chapter-I of Rates Master Circular/Demurrage-Wharfage-Waiver/2016/0)										
<b>Open Rake</b>		<b>Flat Rake</b>		<b>Hopper Rake</b>		<b>Covered Rake</b>			<b>Tank Rake</b>	
Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading		Loading	Unloading	Loading	Unloading
12	08	12	08	N.A.	2 ½	Other Than BCNHL	10	10	09	09
						BCNHL	11	11		

*Note- The above-mentioned free time will be applicable for all booking points/sidings as long as they are located within the same steel plant.*