



Rules Change Briefing

GCOR 1.10 – Games, Reading or Electronic Devices

A System General Order will be issued with an effective date of October 27, 2008 amending GCOR Rule 1.10 to bring BNSF's current rule into compliance with Federal Railroad Administration Emergency Order No. 26. The amendment will place additional restrictions for using cellular telephones and other electronic devices.

A list of frequently asked questions has been added to the end of this briefing to help with understanding the changes that are being made.

The following amendment is in effect October 27, 2008.

1.10 Games, Reading, or Electronic Devices

Employees on duty must not:

- Play games.
- Read magazines, newspapers, or other literature not related to their duties.
- Have magazines, newspapers, and other literature not related to duties available for viewing in the cab of engines. This does not prohibit employees from having such material enclosed in their personal luggage.

Cellular Phones

During normal operations, cellular phones must be turned off and ear pieces removed:

- When employees are on a moving train (includes supervisors).
- When members of your crew are on the ground performing duties related to train movement, switching, performing air tests, riding equipment, providing inspection of passing trains, assisting in preparation of their train or fouling the track (within four feet of nearest rail of a track).
- When other employees are performing safety related duties associated with your train.

Exceptions: Cellular phones may be used:

- For voice communications only, while train is stopped and any member of their crew is not engaged in safety-related duties including switching, performing air tests, riding equipment, inspecting passing trains, assisting in preparation of a train or fouling the track (within four feet of nearest rail of track), and all crew members have been briefed that operations have been suspended.
- To access electronically stored rule-related files (only) when train is stopped. However, text messaging, e-mailing or use of other device features is prohibited.

- While on passenger trains or business cars for business purposes provided they are not used in the controlling unit or the cab room of the controlling cab car. Use must not interfere with any safety-related duties including calling or acknowledging signals.
- When use relates to mechanical or technical evaluations (e.g. testing of signal system, Electronic Train Management System, distributed power, etc.) Before using the cell phone, a safety briefing is required with all assigned crew members and all must agree how communications can safely take place.
- During emergencies, while deadheading or transporting by means other than on a freight train, or as outlined in GCOR 2.5 (Communications Redundancy) due to radio failure.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices such as Hammerhead, Renegade or other similar devices may be used for company business while train is stopped and no crew members are engaged in safety-related duties including switching, performing air tests, riding equipment, inspecting passing trains, assisting in preparation of a train or fouling the track. (within four feet of nearest rail of a track,) and all crew members have briefed that operations have been suspended.

Laptop computers may be used (only to access electronically stored rule-related files). When train is stopped or while deadheading or being transported by means other than by freight train (without restriction).

Electronic devices such as DVD/CD players, MP3 players, iPods, internet browsers, text messaging and emailing devices:

- May not be used by crews on a train while on duty. Devices must be turned off and ear pieces removed (includes supervisors).
- May be used while deadheading or being transported by means other than by freight train.

Railroad supplied devices related to train movement and locomotive/train control systems (e.g. Remote Control Transmitter, railroad electronic displays, Electronic Train Management System, distributed power, head-end device, etc.) is not restricted or prohibited.

Digital clocks/timepieces are not considered electronic devices.

Frequently asked questions:

1. **Q. Can I have a newspaper or magazine laying outside my luggage/grip, even if I do not plan to read it while on duty?**
A. No. Newspapers and any other literature not related to duties must be secured within luggage or grips.
2. **Q. When on a moving train, can I have my cell phone powered on if it is out of reach in my luggage/grip?**
A. No. All cell phones must be turned off while the train is moving unless it is being used during an emergency or as a communication redundancy under GCOR 2.5.
3. **Q. I'm on a moving train and want to look up a rule on my PDA, which is a combination cell phone and device capable of storing an electronic rule book. May I look up the rule while moving?**
A. No. BNSF is more restrictive than the emergency order. The only time an electronic device can be powered on to look up a rule is while the train is stopped
4. **Q. While deadheading by means other than a freight train (e.g. a van or bus), may I use my DVD/CD player, MP3 player, IPOD or laptop for any purpose?**
A. Yes. These items may be used while deadheading, only if transportation is being provided by means other than a freight train.
5. **Q. May I use my laptop computer to look up a rule, while on a stopped freight train?**
A. Yes. Laptops may be used on a stopped train, only to access electronically stored rule-related files.
6. **Q. May I use my laptop computer to watch a movie, while on a stopped freight train?**
A. No. Laptops may be used on a stopped train only to access electronically stored rule-related files.
7. **Q. I'm the engineer on a train. My train is stopped and the conductor is lining a switch for our movement; can I make a call on my cell phone?**
A. No. Train must be stopped but calls cannot be made if any member of your crew is engaged in a safety-related duty including switching, riding equipment, inspecting passing trains, assisting in preparation of a train or fouling the track.
8. **Q. While on the ground, standing in the clear during switching, can I use my cell phone to make a call?**
A. No. Cellular phones and other personal electronic devices must not be turned on while any of your crew members are engaged in any safety-related task, which includes switching, even if another crew member is performing the task.

9. **Q. Can I make a voice call using my cell phone, while on the ground standing clear of the track, while conducting a train inspection of a passing train as outlined in GCOR 6.29.1?**
A. No. This is considered a safety related task, as mentioned in the previous question.
10. **Q. Can I have my cell phone or other approved personal electronic device powered on while stopped and during an air brake test?**
A. No. cellular phones and other personal electronic devices must not be powered on while engaged in any safety-related task, which includes an air brake test.
11. **Q. While stopped on my train during an undesired emergency and while a rapid responder is assisting us in getting the train moving again, can I use my cellular phone to make a voice call?**
A. No. Cellular phones may not be used when other employees are performing safety related duties associated with your train.
12. **Q. Can a supervisor such as a road foreman of engines have a cell phone turned on and use it while riding the head end of a moving freight train?**
A. No, unless performing a technical evaluation and listed criteria are met. Under normal circumstances, they are expected to comply with GCOR 1.10.
13. **Q. Can I use my cell phone or other approved personal electronic device to send or receive text messages, or access the internet, while stopped in a siding, waiting for a train?**
A. No. Cell phones or other approved personal electronic devices can only be used while stopped, to make voice calls only.
14. **Q. Can I use my Hammerhead or Renegade to report work while my train is moving?**
A. No. Approved electronic devices can only be used when train is stopped.
15. **Q. Can I power on and use a work order reporting device, such as Hammerhead or Renegade as soon as my train stops?**
A. Yes, as long as no crew members are engaged in safety-related duties and all crew members have been briefed that operations have been suspended.
16. **Q. Since I am required to have my cell phone powered off while moving, how can a family member contact me in case of an emergency?**
A. BNSF has an established 24 hour emergency response numbers to use that are listed in Division General Notices. Those numbers are:

Craft	Direct Dial	Toll Free
TY&E	(785) 676-2911	(800) 964-9387
Engineering - Maintenance of Way	(817) 867-5990	(800) 964-9388
Train Dispatching –Fort Worth/Spring/Kansas City	(800) 755-9671	(800) 755-9671
Train Dispatching San Bernardino	(909) 386-4911	n/a

17. **Q. If I am the conductor on a passenger train or business car and I need to make a business-related voice call using a railroad supplied electronic device, can I do so while my train is moving?**
A. Yes. As long as you are not riding in the controlling unit or cab room of the controlling cab car and it does not interfere with any safety-related duties.
18. **Q. Can the FRA fine me for using my cell phone or other approved personal electronic device while my train is moving?**
A. Yes. The Emergency Order does contain a section on civil penalties for violations of the Emergency Order.
19. **Q. If I am operating on another railroad other than BNSF, am I required to comply with 1.10 as amended on BNSF?**
A. No. However, General Code of Operating Rules Rule 1.14 – Employee Jurisdiction, requires that employees comply with the operating rules and timetable/special instructions of the railroad they are operating on. Therefore; as with all other operating rules, it will be important for employees to be familiar with any differences between BNSF and other roads operated on.