

## **OPT 627 – CELLULAR PHONES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

### **OBJECTIVE**

This test is designed to determine employee compliance with cellular phone and electronic device restrictions.

### **APPLICABLE RULES**

GCOR 1.10 MWOR 1.10 TDCOM 40.23 TDCOM 55.22 System Special Instructions

### **PREPARATION / PROCEDURE**

Procedures include visual observations to determine if prohibitive use is occurring and supervisor inquiry to ascertain if restricted devices are turned on or off.

Two primary testing procedures will be used for completion of this test:

1. A supervisor observes an employee using an electronic device when restricted, or
2. A supervisor determines that an electronic device is turned off (when required) per referenced rules or instructions.

When determining whether a device is turned on or off, supervisors are to use the following guidance:

- When an employee's cellular phone or electronic device is in view, such as on a desk, control stand or on a belt clip/holster, a supervisor will ask the employee if the device is turned off (if device is required to be turned off).
- When an employee's cellular phone or electronic device is in view, such as on a desk, control stand or on a belt clip/holster, and device is noted to be ringing, indicator lights flashing, vibrating, etc., a supervisor will ask the employee to demonstrate the device's power setting (if device is required to be turned off).
- When no cellular phone or electronic device is in view and use of such device would be restricted, a supervisor may ask the employee if any such device is in the employee's possession. If answer is yes, supervisor will ask if device is turned off.

Several testing scenarios follow. Cellular phone is being used in the scenarios outside of an emergency situation or per GCOR 2.5 (Communications Redundancy):

- Boarding a controlling locomotive to review results of a banner test with a train crew, a cellular phone is viewed to be in the possession of an employee in the controlling cab. Employee response to supervisor inquiry indicates the cellular phone is turned off. This is considered a test with a passing result.
- During switching operations, a cellular phone is viewed in the belt clip/holster of a crewmember while engaged in safety related tasks (e.g. going between equipment to couple an air hose). Employee response to supervisor inquiry indicates the cellular phone is turned off. This is considered a test with a passing result.
- During switching operations, an RCO crewmember is observed using a cellular phone while the remote control locomotive is in motion. This is considered a test exception.
- Crew member on the ground providing train inspection of another passing train is observed using a cellular phone. This is considered a test exception.

- Crew member observed in the controlling cab of a locomotive using or entering information into a laptop computer or Renegade device while the train is moving. This is considered a test exception.
- While a train is moving, observation is made of crewmembers in the controlling cab of the locomotive and no use of electronic earpiece is evident. This observation cannot be recorded. Should a crew member be observed wearing an electronic earpiece while the train is moving, the employee must be immediately contacted and is considered a test exception.
- Control Operator / Train Dispatcher / Yardmaster is observed talking on a cell phone while in their respective work area. This is considered a test exception.
- While a mechanical employee is verifying proper brake application during an air test, a crew member of that train is observed using a cellular phone in the cab of the controlling locomotive. This is considered a test exception.
- While deadheading in a highway vehicle, an employee is observed sending text messages with an electronic device. This observation should not be recorded as an operations test.
- While train is stopped, crew member is observed using a cell phone and supervisor does not interact with the employee to determine if use is permitted. This observation should not be recorded as an operations test.

While not all inclusive, some of the key aspects to conducting this test are:

- Cell phones must be turned off when required by rule.
- Wearing of stereo headphones, ear-buds and cellular phone earpieces when restricted are considered test exceptions.
- Cell phones may only be used for voice communications under conditions specified by rule.
- Electronic devices such as DVD/CD players, MP3 players, iPods, etc. may not be used by a crewmember working/transporting on a freight train or working on a passenger train.
- Electronic devices such as Hammerhead and Renegade may only be used when train is stopped.
- Laptop computer or similar device capable of storing electronic rule book files may only be used to access electronic rule book files. When accessing electronic rule book files train must be stopped.

### **FAILURE DEFINED**

Key test failures include any of the following observations:

- Crew member's cellular phones are not turned off or stereo headphones, ear-buds, or cellular earpieces are not removed while train is moving (Except during emergency or as provided by GCOR 2.5)
- Employees such as dispatchers, yardmasters, control operators, etc., are using a personal cell phone or electronic device in an area restricted by rule
- Any electronic device is turned "on" while train is moving unless permitted by rule
- Crew member's laptop computer or similar device capable of storing electronic rule book files are used when train is moving
- Engineer using a cell phone while a member of their crew is engaged in a safety related duty
- Employee on the ground using a cell phone while a member of their crew is engaged in a safety related task
- Crew member using a cell phone while conducting an inspection of a passing train

- Cell phone or other personal electronic device turned “on” while engaged in any safety related task including an air brake test
- Using a cell phone or multifunction electronic device for any purpose other than making a voice call when restricted by rule
- Using a Hammerhead or Renegade while train is moving