



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accident:** An unplanned and sometimes injury-causing or damaging event, which interrupts the normal progress of an activity.

**Air brake hose:** The flexible connection between the brake pipes of cars or locomotives.

**Angle cock:** A two-position valve located at both ends of the brake pipe on locomotives, passenger and freight cars. When open, it allows the passage of air.

**Approved:** 1.) Sanctioned, endorsed, accredited, certified, or accepted as satisfactory by a duly recognized authority. 2.) Acceptable according to FRRS policy.

**Asbestos Containing Material (ACM):** Any material that contains asbestos.

**Authorized:** A person who is approved or assigned by FRRS to perform a specific type of duty or duties or to be at a specific location(s) at the jobsite.

**Bad Order:** Equipment that is in need of repair.

**Banding:** Strap or straps used to secure material.

**Boomer:** Drifter who went from one railroad job to another, staying but a short time on each job or each road. This term dates back to pioneer days when men followed boom camps. The opposite is home guard. Boomers should not be confused with tramps, although they occasionally became tramps. Boomers were railroad workers often in big demand because of their wide experience, sometimes blackballed because their tenure of stay was uncertain. Their common practice was to follow the "rushes"-that is, to apply for seasonal jobs when and where they were most needed, when the movement of strawberry crops, watermelons, grain, etc., was making the railroads temporarily short-handed. There are virtually no boomers in North America today. When men are needed for seasonal jobs they are called from the extra board.

**Capacity:** The allowable load limit for any lifting or storing device as determined by the manufacturer, regulation, or both.

**Center sill:** The center longitudinal part of the underframe of a car which forms the backbone of the underframe and transmits most of the buffing shocks from one end of the car to the other.

**Certified:** Has met the requirements of FRRS approved programs, and has been granted a certificate.

**Chock:** A device placed on the rail to prevent movement of stationary rolling equipment.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Compliance:** The act of obeying the rule or the law.

**COTS:** Stands for Clean/Oil/Test/and Stencil, which is the process followed for certifying brakes on railroad cars. The info is usually displayed in a white-outlined black box on the side of the equipment (known as the "COTS box").

**Coupler:** An appliance for connecting cars or locomotives.

**Coupler webbing:** The side pocket on a coupler that the end of train device mounts into.

**Cushioned underframe:** The framework of a railway car which is designed to prevent the shocks and impact stresses from damaging the car structure or its lading.

**Derail:** A track safety device designed to guide a car off the rails at a selected spot as a means of protection against collisions or other accidents; commonly used on spurs or sidings to prevent cars from fouling the main track.

**Designated:** A person who is approved or assigned by FRRS to perform a specific type of duty or duties or to be at a specific location(s) at the jobsite (same meaning as "authorized").

**Drift pin:** A tapered steel pin, 12" to 18" in length, used by MOW to align bolt holes at rail joints. Drift pins are available in many sizes for various other applications.

**End-of-Train Telemetry Device (ETD):** A system of components that determines the rear car brake pipe pressure and transmits that information to the display on the head-of-train telemetry device (HTD).

**Enhanced-visibility workwear:** Personal protective clothing that is either accented with or constructed entirely in reflective lime green, yellow, or orange material.

**Environment:** The water, air, land, and all plants, humans, and animals living therein, and the inter-relationships which exist among them.

**Fall Protection:** Safety equipment designed to prevent falls and minimize injury in the case of falls.

**Frog:** A track structure used at the intersection of two running rails to provide support for wheels and passageways for their flanges, thus permitting wheels on either rail to cross to the other.

**Fusee:** A red flare used for flagging purposes.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Hand Brake:** An assortment of levers, chains, rods, and gears. When applied manually by wheel or lever, the hand brake forces the brake shoes against the braking surfaces (wheel tread or disc) to control car or locomotive movement.

**Hand truck:** A small, rectangular barrow with a pair of handles at one end, a pair of small, heavy wheels at the other, and a projecting edge to slide under a load.

**Hazardous Material:** A substance or material which is capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and the environment.

**Incident:** An undesired event that, under slightly different circumstances, could have resulted in personal harm or property damage. Any undesired loss of resources. Sometimes referred to as a "near miss," such as when a collision is avoided.

**Inspect:** To examine officially in a critical, detailed manner.

**Intoxicants:** Mind-altering chemicals including alcohol and drugs. Can also include some prescription and over the counter (OTC) medications.

**Job Safety Briefing, Safety Meeting or Tailboard:** A communication tool used by professionals to make sure that everyone involved in a task knows what is to be done, how the task is to be accomplished, and how to mentally prepare to accomplish it. Job safety briefings must be conducted before beginning work activities and whenever there is a change in conditions or work activity.

**Knuckle:** The pivoting casting that fits into the head of a coupler to engage a mating coupler.

**Leading foot:** When riding on the side of moving equipment, the foot on same side as direction of movement.

**Lockout/Tagout (LOTO):** Procedures that involve tagging and locking systems so that no one can inadvertently activate the circuit, system, or equipment that is temporarily out of service.

**Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):** A form, provided by the manufacturer or supplier, describing the chemical and physical hazards of a substance.

**Motor Vehicle:** A motor driven conveyance primarily designed for operation other than on rail. Some motor vehicles, such as hy-rails, are also equipped to operate on rail.

**Operator:** The person who "runs" and so must maintain control of mechanized equipment or a motor vehicle.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Any material or device worn to protect a person from exposure to or contact with any harmful substance or force.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Proper Authority:** (1) Those individuals who are qualified by virtue of their expertise or their position of leadership to approve, certify, or sanction. (2) Having secured approval for acting in a particular manner.

**Qualified:** A person who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated his/her ability to perform the task or solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

**Rail expander:** Hydraulic or ratchet type tool used to pull rails together or to separate them.

**Rail fork:** A long handled tool with three jaws at one end used for rolling a rail.

**Skate:** A metal skid placed on the rail to stop the movement of rolling equipment.

**Three-point contact:** Bodily contact consisting of two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand.

**Tie and timber tongs:** Steel tongs designed for use handling rail ties and crossing timbers.

**Tie plate:** Metal plate installed between the rail and cross tie to distribute the weight over a greater area of the tie.

**Torpedo:** Explosive device placed on the rail. **(NOT USED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES)**

**Trained:** Has participated in learning event(s) appropriate to the topic. Learning events include, but are not limited to, one-on-one coaching on the job, job safety briefings, toolbox or marathon meetings, and formal programs.

**Trailing foot:** When riding on the side of moving equipment, the foot on the opposite side from the direction of movement.

**Transport:** The movement of goods and materials in commerce.

**Unauthorized modification:** Improper use of tools and/or equipment for the job task. Unauthorized modifications include actual physical alteration of tools or equipment and use of tools or equipment for other than their intended purpose.

**Universal hose and pipe coupling:** A fitting which permits quick connecting and disconnecting of hose-to-hose, hose-to-pipe, and hose-to-tool.

**Unsafe Condition:** Any physical state which results in a reduction in the degree of safety normally present in an activity.



## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Witness:** An individual who has, from personal observation, knowledge of an event.

**Work Environment:** The physical location, equipment, materials processed or used, and the kinds of operations performed in the course of an individual's work, whether on or off the FRRS's premises.