

AAPRCO PRIVATE CAR OWNER/OPERATOR CODE OF ETHICS AND SAFETY STANDARDS



The American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners, Inc. supports a Code of Ethics and Safety Standards to guide the responsibilities and conduct of the owners, operators, employees and guests who board and ride on Private Railroad cars.

Code of Ethics

The code's foundations are simple: Safety, Integrity, Courtesy and Common Sense.

By virtue of membership in this Association, each owner and operator accepts the obligation to ensure that the principles and specifics of this code are both clearly understood and carefully followed by all who board and ride.

I. Operation

The owner or operator of each car shall not knowingly operate in violation of any rule or standard of the Federal Railroad Administration, the Association of American Railroads and its carrier members, Amtrak, and AAPRCO. Each car shall be maintained in strict conformity with all current mechanical and safety rules.

The actions of the owners, operators and employees shall at all times set the example for passengers and guests.

The owners, operators, and employees will be fully cognizant of and will at all times follow the same safety rules and standards applicable to individual railroad employees and passengers in regard to governing their conduct in and about railroad property and equipment, regardless of ownership or location.

Passengers and guests shall be made aware of the safety standards, and of the necessity that such standards shall be strictly observed. These standards shall include, but not be limited to, a clear understanding of the specific areas or portions of the car or cars, where, under no circumstances, passengers and guest are permitted to go. Such as under or between cars, on observation decks, platforms, and vestibules were riding where riding has been banned by the host railroad.

These standards also apply to conduct on or about railroad property, with specific reference to equipment in motion, wet or slippery rail, switches, electricity, and other potential hazards.

The presence of passengers and guests in areas of railroad property not designated for general public use shall not be permitted, unless prior approval from the property owner or authorized representative has been obtained and adequate supervision is provided.

At all times, the owner or operator, or a designated representative, shall be present and responsible for the observance of these standards when the car or cars are in or are subject to use.

II. Laws

While endeavoring to provide the most pleasant possible experience for passengers and guests, the owner and operator shall ensure, without exception that all persons respect and observe all federal, state and local laws, as well as the laws of common sense, with particular emphasis on such laws relating to sanitation, drugs, alcohol, as well as the United States, Canadian, and Mexican Customs.

III. Owner and Operator behavior

Each owner and operator shall maintain and direct standards of conduct beyond reproach. Recognizing the fact that the actions of all persons associated with a car reflect directly upon this Association and its members,

These standards shall include, but not be limited to, the handling and disposition of waste materials; the prompt and efficient conduct of financial and business matters, including trip request and logistics; the total fulfillment of each obligation assumed or incurred; and courteous and respectful interface with the general public, particularly railroad employees at all levels.

The owner and operator will ensure that all activities under his or her direction will be consistent, and will not unduly interfere with normal railroad operations. They shall make no request nor take such action which would cause this provision to be violated, including amendments to itinerary unrelated to a legitimate emergency, late or unreasonable specifications for unusual services, or unnecessary delay to trains.

Recognizing that mutual cooperation is a cornerstone of the Association, each member shall endeavor to assist any and all other members in times of legitimate need, upon reasonable request.

SAFETY GUIDE LINES

As previously stated, Safety is of prime concern to this Association. To assist your efforts, some specific guidelines are presented to insure you and your passengers enjoy the pleasures of railroading.

Conduct a pre-trip briefing of all car attendants and/or employees to review safety procedures. All should be familiar with the location and proper use of emergency equipment and understand the safety rules presented to the passengers.

Prior to boarding or detrainning from a host railroad's yards, Always contact an authorized employee who will instruct you in the accepted route to and from the yard or shop offices.

Maintain current copies of PC-1, PC- 1B, PC-3, PC-4, PC-5, and Map 10C for moves.

Should work be needed on your car, advise host railroad. Blue flag protection will be provided. NEVER remove or alter the position of a blue flag.

Brief the train conductor prior to departure and enroute about the details of the trip including boarding and detrainning stops for your passengers, communications available (radio), and the need to take on water, etc.

Passengers must receive a copy of the Passenger Safety Rules and the attendants should be available to answer questions.

A pre-trip list should be designed to check operation of emergency systems and equipment such as tools, flashlights, fire extinguishers, portable marker lights, first aid kit, smoke alarm batteries, etc.

Frequent safety inspections of the car interior and exterior should not only be made prior to a trip, but during your trip.

In addition to safety rule handouts to passengers, post areas throughout car where safety items are involved. Smoke alarms should be strategically located throughout car.

CAR OPERATORS / ATTENDANTS SHOULD:

Understand all safety rules and be trained in basic First Aid, CPR, and emergency situations such as fire and evacuation procedures. If there is a fire, blower systems should be turned off so smoke will not be circulated to other parts of the car.

Insure passenger welfare, comfort and safety at all times.

Stow luggage, food, etc. securely to prevent them from being dislodged during travel. Keep passageways of car clear of obstacles.

Attend to the doors being used for boarding at all times when passengers are boarding and detrainning.

Precede passengers in detrainning to see that all is clear on the ground or platform.

Monitor vestibule/diaphragm area when in motion to assure doors are kept closed and vestibule/platform area is secure as required.

Visibly confirm that the hand brake is set when parked and wheels properly chocked by railroad personnel. Also, check that hand brake is released and wheel chocks removed by railroad personnel prior to moving.

NEVER allow anyone to climb on top or underneath a parked car.

NEVER allow anyone to insert, remove or work on any 480-volt H.E.P. Connecting or removing 480-volt cables to the train shall be done by qualified railroad personnel only!

NEVER wash car windows at a terminal without approval from terminal superintendent or foreman.

NEVER allow passengers to use any transmission devices (radios) that have direct contact with the train crew unless there is a clear and present danger.

Use of 2-way radios on railroad frequencies shall be limited to the following situations: (a) Life Threatening Health Emergencies; (b) Catastrophic Mechanical Failure; (c) Fire; (d) Criminal Acts.

The correct way to initiate a message to the train crew by a private car radio operator on railroad frequencies is to say... "Private car (name) to the crew of Train # . We have an emergency!... Acknowledge?"

NEVER allow anyone to offer alcoholic beverages to any railroad personnel.

Check with the Conductor of the train about opening the top vestibule dutch doors and the occupancy of observation decks and open platforms while moving.

Please show courtesy and respect to railroad employees. All of us are "guests" of the railroad and a favorable impression of the private car owner and passengers is vital to our continued enjoyment of riding the rails. Your insistence of proper conduct and behavior will reflect to the railroads your concern for the welfare of your passengers. Remember that we're all in this together.