

be moved when necessary to make repairs, without a penalty being imposed under section 21302 of this title, from the place at which the defect or insecurity was first discovered to the nearest available place at which the repairs can be made—

(1) on the railroad line on which the defect or insecurity was discovered; or

(2) at the option of a connecting railroad carrier, on the railroad line of the connecting carrier, if not farther than the place of repair described in clause (1) of this subsection.

(b) USE OF CHAINS INSTEAD OF DRAWBARS.—A vehicle in a revenue train or in association with commercially-used vehicles may be moved under this section with chains instead of drawbars only when the vehicle contains livestock or perishable freight.

(c) LIABILITY.—The movement of a vehicle under this section is at the risk only of the railroad carrier doing the moving. This section does not relieve a carrier from liability in a proceeding to recover damages for death or injury of a railroad employee arising from the movement of a vehicle with equipment that is defective, insecure, or not maintained in compliance with this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 882.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
20303(a)	45:13 (2d sentence proviso words before 1st semicolon).	Apr. 14, 1910, ch. 160, §4 (2d sentence proviso), 36 Stat. 299; Jan. 14, 1983, Pub. L. 97-468, §704, 96 Stat. 2580.
20303(b)	45:13 (2d sentence proviso words after last semicolon).	
20303(c)	45:13 (2d sentence proviso words between semicolons).	

In subsections (a) and (b), the word “moved” is substituted for “hauling” and “hauling” for consistency in this section.

In subsection (a), before clause (1), the words “A vehicle that is equipped in compliance with this chapter” are substituted for “where any car shall have been properly equipped, as provided in sections 1 to 16 of this title” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “while such car was being used by such carrier upon its line of railroad” are omitted as surplus since this chapter only applies in the case of vehicles used by railroad carriers on their railroad lines. The word “nevertheless” is added for clarity. The words “when necessary to make repairs” are substituted for “if any such movement is necessary to make such repairs and such repairs cannot be made except at any such repair point” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “without a penalty being imposed under section 21302 of this title” are substituted for “without liability for the penalties imposed by this section or section 6 of this title” because of the restatement.

In subsection (b), the words “A vehicle . . . may be moved under this section . . . only when” are substituted for “and nothing in this proviso shall be construed to permit the hauling of defective cars . . . unless” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (c), the word “hauling” is omitted for consistency in this section. The word “proceeding” is substituted for “remedial action” for consistency in the revised title and to ensure that administrative, as well as court proceedings, are included. The words “to recover damages” are added for clarity. The words

“arising from” are substituted for “caused . . . by reason of or in connection with” to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 20304. Assumption of risk by employees

An employee of a railroad carrier injured by a vehicle or train used in violation of section 20302(a)(1)(A), (2), (4), or (5)(A) of this title does not assume the risk of injury resulting from the violation, even if the employee continues to be employed by the carrier after learning of the violation.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 883.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
20304	45:7.	Mar. 2, 1893, ch. 196, §8, 27 Stat. 532; June 22, 1988, Pub. L. 100-342, §13(1)(H), 102 Stat. 631.
	45:8 (words before 16th comma).	Mar. 2, 1903, ch. 976, §1 (words before 23d comma), 32 Stat. 943; June 22, 1988, Pub. L. 100-342, §13(2)(A), 102 Stat. 631.

The words “after learning of the violation” are substituted for “after the unlawful use of such locomotive, car, or train had been brought to his knowledge” in 45:7 for clarity.

§ 20305. Inspection of mail cars

The Secretary of Transportation shall inspect the construction, adaptability, design, and condition of mail cars used on railroads in the United States. The Secretary shall make a report on the inspection and submit a copy of the report to the United States Postal Service.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 883.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
20305	45:37.	May 27, 1908, ch. 200, §1 (6th par. last sentence under heading “Interstate Commerce Commission”), 35 Stat. 325.
	49 App.:1655(e)(1)(I), (J).	Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 299, §1 (6th par. last sentence under heading “Interstate Commerce Commission”), 35 Stat. 965.
		Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89-670, §6(e)(1)(I), (J), 80 Stat. 939.

The words “United States Postal Service” are substituted for “Postmaster General” because of sections 4(a) and 5(e) of the Postal Reorganization Act (Public Law 91-375, 84 Stat. 773, 775).

§ 20306. Exemption for technological improvements

(a) GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of Transportation may exempt from the requirements of this chapter railroad equipment or equipment that will be operated on rails, when those requirements preclude the development or implementation of more efficient railroad transportation equipment or other transportation innovations under existing law.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR EXEMPTION.—The Secretary may grant an exemption under subsection (a) of this section only on the basis of—

(1) findings based on evidence developed at a hearing; or

(2) an agreement between national railroad labor representatives and the developer of the new equipment or technology.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 883.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
20306	45:1013.	May 30, 1980, Pub. L. 96-254, §117, 94 Stat. 406.

In subsection (a), the words “Notwithstanding any other provision of law” and “the mandatory requirements of” are omitted as surplus. The words “existing law” are substituted for “the existing statutes” for consistency in the revised title.

In subsection (b), the words before clause (1) are added because of the restatement. Clause (1) is substituted for “after a hearing and consistent with findings based upon evidence developed therein” to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (2), the words “an agreement” are substituted for “expressions of agreement” to eliminate unnecessary words.

CHAPTER 205—SIGNAL SYSTEMS

- Sec.
- 20501. Definition.
- 20502. Requirements for installation and use.
- 20503. Amending regulations and changing requirements.
- 20504. Inspection, testing, and investigation.
- 20505. Reports of malfunctions and accidents.

§ 20501. Definition

In this chapter, “signal system” means a block signal system, an interlocking, automatic train stop, train control, or cab-signal device, or a similar appliance, method, device, or system intended to promote safety in railroad operations.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 883.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
20501	(no source).	

This section is added to eliminate the unnecessary repetition of the words used in the definition. The definition is derived from 49 App.:26(b)–(f).

§ 20502. Requirements for installation and use

(a) INSTALLATION.—(1) When the Secretary of Transportation decides after an investigation that it is necessary in the public interest, the Secretary may order a railroad carrier to install, on any part of its railroad line, a signal system that complies with requirements of the Secretary. The order must allow the carrier a reasonable time to complete the installation. A carrier may discontinue or materially alter a signal system required under this paragraph only with the approval of the Secretary.

(2) A railroad carrier ordered under paragraph (1) of this subsection to install a signal system on one part of its railroad line may not be held negligent for not installing the system on any part of its line that was not included in the order. If an accident or incident occurs on a part of the line on which the signal system was not required to be installed and was not installed, the use of the system on another part of the line

may not be considered in a civil action brought because of the accident or incident.

(b) USE.—A railroad carrier may allow a signal system to be used on its railroad line only when the system, including its controlling and operating appurtenances—

(1) may be operated safely without unnecessary risk of personal injury; and

(2) has been inspected and can meet any test prescribed under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 883.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
20502(a)	49 App.:26(b).	Feb. 4, 1887, ch. 104, 24 Stat. 379, §25(b); added Feb. 28, 1920, ch. 91, §441, 41 Stat. 498; restated Aug. 26, 1937, ch. 818, 50 Stat. 836; Sept. 18, 1940, ch. 722, §14(b), 54 Stat. 919; June 22, 1988, Pub. L. 100-342, §17(2), (8), 102 Stat. 635, 636.
	49 App.:1655(e)(6)(A).	Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89-670, §6(e)(6)(A), 80 Stat. 939.
20502(b)	49 App.:26(e).	Feb. 4, 1887, ch. 104, 24 Stat. 379, §25(e); added Feb. 28, 1920, ch. 91, §441, 41 Stat. 498; restated Aug. 26, 1937, ch. 818, 50 Stat. 836; Sept. 18, 1940, ch. 722, §14(b), 54 Stat. 919; June 22, 1988, Pub. L. 100-342, §17(5), 102 Stat. 636.

In this section, the words “signal system” are substituted for “block signal system, interlocking, automatic train stop, train control, and/or cab-signal devices, and/or other similar appliances, methods, and systems intended to promote the safety of railroad operation” and “such systems, devices, appliances, or methods” in 49 App.:26(b) and “any system, device, or appliance covered by this section” and “such apparatus” in 49 App.:26(e) because of the definition of “signal system” in section 20501 of the revised title.

In subsection (a)(1), the words “decides after an investigation that it is necessary in the public interest” are substituted for “after investigation, if found necessary in the public interest” for clarity. The word “specifications” is omitted as included in “requirements”. The words “The order must allow the carrier a reasonable time to complete the installation” are substituted for “such order to be issued and published a reasonable time (as determined by the Secretary) in advance of the date for its fulfillment” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “a signal system required under this paragraph” are substituted for “That block signal systems, interlocking, automatic train stop, train control, and cab-signal devices in use on August 26, 1937, or such systems or devices hereinafter installed” to eliminate unnecessary or obsolete words and because of the definition of “signal system” in section 20501 of the revised title.

In subsection (a)(2), the words “railroad line” are substituted for “railroad” for consistency in the revised title. The word “civil” is added for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code. The words “or incident” are added for consistency in this part.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the words “may allow . . . only when” are substituted for “It shall be unlawful . . . unless . . . unless” for clarity. In clause (1), the words “in proper condition and” and “in the service to which it is put” are omitted as being covered by the words of the clause. The words “risk of personal injury” are substituted for “peril to life and limb” for clarity. The words “from time to time” are omitted as surplus. In clause (2), the words “prescribed under this chapter” are substituted for “in accordance with the provisions of this section” and “prescribed in the rules and regulations provided for in this section” for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words.