

1973 Senate Bill 455

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CHAPTER 154, Laws of 1973

AN ACT to repeal and recreate 192.14; and to create 192.55 (7) of the statutes, establishing minimum safety, health and comfort requirements for railroad cabooses, granting rule-making authority and providing a penalty.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 192.14 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

192.14 Caboose equipment. (1) This section shall apply to all cabooses except those operated in yard or transfer service.

(2) Cabooses shall be at least 24 feet in length exclusive of platform and be of either a cupola or bay window type. Cabooses shall be of metal construction and shall be sufficiently insulated to reduce noise to a reasonable level. Cabooses shall be provided with a door with a window at each end, and with an outside platform across each end, not less than 24 inches in width and be equipped with proper guard rails and with grab irons and steps for the safety of persons getting on and off.

(3) The trucks shall provide riding qualities at least equal to those of freight-type trucks modified with elliptical or additional coil springs or other means of equal or greater efficiency and shall be equipped with standard steel wheels.

(4) Caboose constructed after the effective date of this act (1973) shall be equipped with cushion underframe draft gear. Caboose constructed prior to the effective date of this act (1973) shall be equipped with cushion draft gear.

(5) Caboose placed in service after the effective date of this act (1973) shall be provided with electric lighting of at least 40 footcandles for direct illumination of the caboose desk, reading areas and lavatory facilities.

(6) Wherever glass or glazing materials are used on exterior doors or windows they shall be of the shatterproof glass type or an equivalent clear plastic product.

(7) Stanchions, grab handles or bars shall be installed at entrances, exits and cupola within convenient reach of employes moving within the caboose. All edges and protrusions, including, but without limitation because of enumeration, all bench, desk, chair and other furnishings, shall be rounded.

(8) All cabooses shall be equipped with at least one portable foam, dry chemical or carbon dioxide type fire extinguisher with a minimum capacity of 1-1/4 gallons or 5 pounds. Such extinguishers shall be placed in readily accessible locations and shall be effectively maintained.

(9) In the event a failure of required equipment or standards of maintenance occurs after a caboose has commenced a trip in service, it shall be corrected at the first point at which maintenance supplies are available, or, in case of repairs, at the first point where repair facilities are available.

(10) If in any particular case, any temporary exemption from any requirement of this section is deemed necessary by a carrier, the commission shall consider the application of the carrier for temporary exemption and may grant the exemption when accompanied by a full statement of the conditions existing and the reasons for the exemption. Any exemption so granted will be limited to the particular case specified and shall be limited to a stated period of time.

(11) Compliance with this section shall be accomplished within 5 years of the effective date of this act (1973). The requirements stated in this section shall be deemed complied with by equipment or standards or maintenance equal or superior to those prescribed in this section.

(12) The commission may after public hearing make rules and establish the standards deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

SECTION 2. 192.55 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

192.55 (7) Any railroad which violates s. 192.14 shall forfeit to the state \$100 for each violation and each day that such violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.
