



# FRA Federal Regulations Concerning the Use of Electronic Devices

## 49 CFR Part 220 Subpart C

### General Prohibitions – §220.303

Railroad operating employees (Generally T & E employees - refer to 49 CFR §220.5 for complete definition) shall not use an electronic device if that use would interfere with their safety-related duties or safety-related duties of another railroad operating employee.

No individual in the cab of a controlling locomotive shall use an electronic device that would interfere with a railroad operating employee's performance of safety-related duties.

### Personal Electronic Devices – §220.305

### Railroad Supplied Electronic Devices – §220.307

**Must be turned OFF with earpieces removed when:**

- On a moving train
- Any member of the crew is on the ground
- Any member of the crew is riding equipment during a switching operation
- Any RR employee is assisting in the preparation of the train for movement

Note: A railroad supplied electronic device not being used for an authorized business purpose is subject to the provisions of *Use of Personal Electronic Devices* in this regulation.

**May only be used for authorized business purposes which must be designated in writing by the railroad**

A locomotive engineer operating the controls of a train may NOT use a device when –

- On a moving train
- Any crewmember is on the ground
- Any crewmember is riding equipment during a switching operation
- Any RR employee is assisting in the preparation of the train for movement

Use in a controlling cab (freight and passenger locomotives): Railroad operating employees shall NOT use a device unless-

- A safety briefing is held between all crewmembers; and
- All crew members agree it is safe to use the device

Use outside freight locomotive cabs is permitted if-

- The freight train crewmember is not fouling a track; and
- All crewmember agree it is safe to use the device

### Dead Head Status – §220.311

Use by Dead Heading employees NOT in the controlling locomotive:

- May use an electronic device only if the employee is not using the device in such a way that interferes with any railroad operating employee's personal safety or performance of safety-related duties.

Use by Dead Heading employees IN the controlling locomotive: Each electronic device must be turned OFF with earpieces removed when-

- On a moving train
- Any crewmember is on the ground (while any safety-related duty is being performed)
- Any crewmember is riding equipment during a switching operation
- Any RR employee is assisting in the preparation of the train for movement

### Exceptions to Subpart C Prohibitions – §220.309

(Must not interfere with any employee's performance of safety-related duties)

Use of a personal device to take a photograph of a safety hazard or a violation of rail safety law, regulation, order or standard, provided:

- Camera is stand-alone, unless device is provided by RR and used in accordance with written guidance
- Camera, unless otherwise permitted, is turned off immediately after documentation
- Crewmember using the device is other than the locomotive engineer on a moving train

(Refer to 49 CFR §220.307 regarding use of RR supplied devices to take photographs)

A Medical device consistent with RR standards for medical fitness for duty

Device is a stand-alone calculator used for authorized business purposes

Use of a device to conduct train or switching operations on a RR exempt under §220.9(b) when RR has fewer than 400,000 annual working hours

**This document is general guidance only. Refer to 49 CFR Part 220 Subpart C for complete regulatory text.**

**\* Railroad operating rules may implement more stringent requirements than this Federal regulation. \***