

**RAILWAY OPERATING  
AND  
SAFETY RULES**

**JULY 1989**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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## **RAILWAY OPERATING AND SAFETY RULES**

### **PREFACE**

The US Army may be called on to operate railroads worldwide. This manual provides a standard code of operating rules for personnel engaged in the operation of military railways. The rules given in this publication are consistent with those of railroads throughout the United States and many foreign countries. Some rules have been modified to be adaptable to operating conditions peculiar to military railroads.

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\*This publication supersedes TM 55-200/TO 45-1-5,14 September 1973, and rescinds DA Forms 4094-R, 4095-R, 4096-R and 4097-R, May 1973.

In order to work productively and safely, personnel must be knowledgeable of and obey the rules and special instructions of the military railroad. Commanders of railway units and installations or activities assigned and using railway equipment are responsible for selecting, training, and testing railway operating personnel in accordance with this manual and AR 611-201.

The proponent of this publication is HQ TRADOC. Submit changes for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) and forward it to Commandant, US Army Transportation School, ATTN: ATSP- TDL, Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5399.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

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## GENERAL RULES

Department of the Army railways include all railways constructed, maintained, or operated for Army use, whether by military personnel or by civilian personnel under military direction. Department of the Army railways are classified as military and utility railways. Personnel must be knowledgeable of the following terms to understand and comply with the railway operating and safety rules. These rules pertain to the safe operation of the Department of the Army railways and contain other general information for operators and other railway personnel.

*Absolute block*— A length of track in which no train or engine is permitted to enter while it is occupied by another train or engine.

*Absolute permissive block (APB)*— A designated section of track or tracks within which the movement of trains will be governed by block signals, which supersede the superiority of trains. The block signals may be controlled manually or automatically.

*Absolute signal*— A block or interlocking signal designated by an “A” marker or the absence of a number plate.

*Automatic block signal system (ABS)*— A series of consecutive blocks governed by block signals, cab signals