



INDIAN RAILWAYS

(Open Lines)

**GENERAL RULES
1976**

**TOGETHER WITH THE
SUBSIDIARY RULES
OF
EAST COAST RAILWAY**

(Revised - 2012)

(For Official use only)

**FOR THE GUIDANCE OF
RAILWAY SERVANTS**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(Railway Board)

No. 69-RR/4 dt 11th Feb 1976

New Delhi

RESOLUTION

General (Amendment) Rules for Indian Railways (Open Lines) 1976 administered by the Government, and for the time being used for the public carriage of passengers, animals or goods.

1. The considerable advance made in recent years in methods of signalling and interlocking, modes of traction and introduction of new types of equipment necessitated a revision of the General Rules, which had been revised last in 1929, for working Open Lines of Railways in India. The revision of these rules was also advocated by the Railway Accidents Committee, 1962, and the Railway Accidents Inquiry Committee, 1968, who desired that the revision of the Rules should be consistent not only with the conditions obtaining at present but likely to obtain in the foreseeable future and emphasised the need for keeping the basic complexion of rules intact while at the same time providing for technological changes in recent years.

2. For this purpose, a committee composed of officers selected from the Traffic and Signal Departments was appointed by the Railway Board in 1968. The committee submitted a set of draft rules for consideration by the Board in February, 1970. The Commission of Railway Safety, whose comments were also invited, did not favour the adoption of these draft rules, which had proposed the abolition of certain existing fundamental concepts such as classification of stations, minimum equipment of signals for each class of station, etc. In the Annual Report for 1971-72, the Commission stated that a wholesale revision and re-arrangement of the rules which formed the basis of train working and safety of operations for over 100 years and which were

ingrained in the minds of thousands of railway staff, would not be desirable. Accordingly, the Commission conveyed to the Railway Board its inability to agree to the adoption of the new General Rules as drafted.

3. In consideration of the strong views expressed by the Commission of Railway Safety and the positive recommendations of the Railway Accidents Committee, 1962, and the Railway Accidents Inquiry Committee, 1968, Member Traffic, Railway Board decided in September, 1972, that the revision of the existing General Rules should be so undertaken as to be in consonance with these views and to cover such aspects only of the existing rules as require modification in the light of the technological changes or where certain existing rules have outlived their use. A fresh revision of the General Rules was accordingly taken up by the Safety Directorate in consultation with other Directorates of the Railway Board.

4. A provisional issue of the revised General Rules was circulated to the Railway Administrations; the Research, Designs and Standards Organisation; the Commission of Railway Safety; Railway Staff College, Vadodara; Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications, Secunderabad; Indian Railways Institute of Advanced Track Technology, Pune; Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Jamalpur, etc, for criticism and suggestions under Government of India, Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) letter No. 68- RR/ 2/Vol. V, dated 25-7-1974.

5. The exhaustive views and comments received from the Railway Administrations, the Commission of Railway Safety, other Railway Institutions and the Ministry of Law, having been considered by Member Traffic, Railway Board, in consultation with the concerned Directorates, a complete revised set of General Rules for Railways administered by the Government have now been framed, sanctioned and issued by the Central Government with Notification No. 69- RR/4 of this day's date to be brought

into use on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

6. The Central Government desire that the said rules may be brought to the notice of the Administrations of the several railways not administered by the Government and that the Heads of Railway Administrations of such railways may be invited to submit a formal application for the adoption of the rules, with such modifications (if any) as may be considered necessary in each case.

Order.- Ordered that this Resolution, with its enclosures, be published under a Notification in the Official Gazette as required by section 60 of the Indian Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989), and that a copy thereof be kept open for inspection at railway stations as directed by sub-section (2) of the same section, also that a copy of this Resolution and of its enclosures be communicated to the Governments, Administrations and Officers for information.

B. M. KAUL

*Ex. Member Traffic, Railway Board and
Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government of India*

Date : 11.02.1976

PREFACE

1. The General Rules (1976) for Open Lines of Railways are amended by Railway board through Gazette notification from time to time. These general rules along with Subsidiary Rules of East Coast Railway are herewith published for the guidance of staff. This book supersedes the General (Amendment) rules and Subsidiary Rules Book (Edition 2010) dated 08.04.2010.

2. (a) General (Amendment) Rules are printed in bold type while Subsidiary Rules are in smaller type and are further distinguished by the prefix S.R.

(b) The Subsidiary Rules appear under the General Rules which they explain or amplify.

(c) The Subsidiary Rules shall be read in conjunction with the General Rules and are equally binding on the staff.

3. **Legal obligation of railway servants**:-Under section 101 (b) of the Indian Railways Act (24 of 1989) all Railway servants on the Railway are bound by the General Rules as well as the Subsidiary Rules, Manuals and Special Instructions. They must make themselves fully acquainted with all these rules and instructions and any revisions made from time to time. The addendum and corrigendum Nos. 1 to 5 of 2010 edition of ECo Railway have been incorporated in this book. A record of all Addenda & Corrigenda issued subsequent to the publication of this book shall be kept on the record pages at the end of the book.

4. **Care of Rules Book** :-This book of rules is to be studied carefully and kept ready for use. Any alterations or addition that may be notified from time to time are to be neatly entered. The book is the property of the Administration and shall be given up by the holder on leaving service by him/her.

5. **Orders not understood** :-Should any order not fully understood by any railway servant, he/she should obtain guidance from his/her immediate superior.

6. **Alteration of orders**:-No order contained in this book shall be varied, superseded or suspended, except under the

express authority of the Chief Operations Manager or such other authority as is duly nominated and notified by the General Manager from time to time.

7. Application of Rules:-Wherever the expression East Coast Railway is used in any Subsidiary Rule, it shall be understood to apply to all lines worked by the Administration of the East Coast Railway.

8. Supplementary Rule Books :-Separate books containing detailed instructions for working trains by Electrical Instruments entitled “Block Working Manual” is issued to all Staff responsible for receiving, despatching or passing trains. A separate book containing detailed instructions on matters pertaining to Accidents entitled “Accident Manual” is issued to all concerned staff. Standing orders, general instructions etc. have been embodied in a separate book entitled “Operating Manual”. These manuals should be studied carefully by the staff.

9. Manuals like Permanent Way & Works Manual, Signal Engineering Manual etc. published by other departments should also be studied by the concerned staff and followed. They are bound as much by them as by General and Subsidiary Rules and other special instructions.

10. In case of any conflict in the rules and regulations stipulated in this G&SR and last edition of date 08.04.2010, the rules and regulations as stipulated in this edition shall be followed.

Chandrasekharpur,
Bhubaneswar

G.D. BRAHMA
Chief Operations Manager
(Authorised Officer)

Dated :19.11.2012

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