



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

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.

Railroad Supplied Electronic Devices – §220.307

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

Storage and display function of a device to refer to a RR rule, special inst., or other directive, if permitted by RR rule	To respond to an emergency involving operation of the RR or encountered while performing duty for the RR	Exceptions to Subpart C Prohibitions – §220.309 (Must not interfere with any employee’s performance of safety-related duties)		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
		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		

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. ***