

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Office of the
General Manager(Safety)
Hajipur

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Sub: - Precautions during movement of Tower Wagon.

1. **Brief background :** There have been 02 cases of accidents occurred in ECR due to violation of rules prescribed in G&SR of ECR and ACTM regarding working of Tower Wagon, brief details of which are as below:

- (a) An incidence of dashing of Tower Wagon between RFJ-DEO station of DDU division occurred on 11.08.2023. In this case, three Tower Wagon No.210089/RFJ, 220024/SEB and 220055/GAYA were going together for OHE maintenance work between RFJ-DEO. Tower Wagon No. 220024/SEB dashed with Tower Wagon No. 210089/RFJ.
- (b) An incidence of roll down of Tower Wagon No.ECR-003(RVNL) of RVNL occurred on 12.08.2023 at 19:22 hrs at JPL station during shunting.

2. **Procedure/Systematic Failure:**

Following Rules/provisions regarding movement of Tower Wagon as mentioned in G&SR, ACTM were not followed:-

- a) Adequate distance of 120 meter was not ensured between Two Tower Wagons and speed was more than limit.
- b) Incompetent and unauthorized person i.e. contractual staff of RVNL on the basis of competency certificate issued by DGM/RVNL in violation of para 17.02 of G&SR was operating the Tower Wagon. Parking/Hand brake was not applied and proper protection of Tower Wagon was not ensured before getting down from Tower Wagon.

2. **Rules to be followed and Precautions to be observed:**

- a) **G&SR Para 17.02 (1) For working of rolling stock in electrified section :** Authorized person – Means any person who is duly authorized to perform the duties appertaining to his employment, the authorization being by an officer of the Railway Administration empowered for that purpose.

Competency certificate to Tower Wagon driver must be issued by Railway officials authorized by competent authority only. Tower Wagon of construction agencies must be operated by Railway authorized personnel only.

- b) **G&SR Para 17.03(2) :** Each Inspector of Electrical Way or works shall be responsible for the proper and efficient maintenance of all break down equipment, wiring trains, tower wagons, lorries, trollies etc. under his charge.

Inspector of railway i.e. SSE/JE (OHE) must be made incharge of Tower Wagon being used by construction agencies. Before offering Tower Wagon for movement, inspector incharge must check the fitness certificate of Tower Wagon. Brake power and brake feel test must be ensured by Tower Wagon driver as per the instruction of PCEE/ECR issued for prevention of SPAD for Loco Pilot.

- c) **G&SR Para 17.08(i&ii):** Tower wagons shall be treated and worked as trains for their reception, dispatch, shunting and stabling, all the rules relevant for such operations of the trains shall apply to Tower wagons also. Drivers of Tower wagons falling under safety category with their medical classification as 'A', validity of their competency certificate, should be 3 years. The periodicity for their Refresher course, Safety Camp and periodical Medical Examination shall be the same as for train Drivers. Training during refresher course shall include operation and maintenance of Tower Wagons.

Only Loco Pilot and Tower Wagon driver of Railways are authorized to drive Tower wagon because they have been given all kinds of necessary training and they undergo prescribed medical examination. Construction agencies must demand Loco Pilot or Tower Wagon driver from railways to drive their Tower Wagon.

- d) **G&SR Para 17.08(x):** For movement of more than one tower wagon in the same block section for carrying out traction related work, the minimum distance of 120 meters between 2 tower wagons must be maintained and it should be specifically mentioned in the Caution Order.

On duty SM must ensure mentioning of the caution to be followed by Tower Wagon driver in caution order before giving authority to proceed. Tower Wagon driver must ensure mentioning of caution in caution order before moving Tower Wagon.

- e) **G&SR Para 17.08(xi):** Maximum speed of Tower wagon in block section should be restricted as per A.C. Traction Manual.

Tower Wagon driver, incharge inspector of Tower Wagon and Tower Wagon cleaner must check speed of Tower Wagon and alarm the Tower Wagon driver whenever speed found more than limit.

- f) Nominated CLI must monitor the working of Tower Wagon working and counsel Tower Wagon driver on a regular basis as being done with Loco Pilot.

In addition to above, all relevant rules mentioned in G&SR, ACTM regarding movement and working of Tower Wagon, Crane etc. type Rolling stock in electrified section should be strictly followed by all concerned.

Compliance of above must be strictly ensured by Supervisors and Officers in the Division while conducting regular and surprise checks.


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