

# Safe Operating Practices Overview

## Producer Car Loading Sites

### Introduction

Grain shippers in Western Canada have the opportunity to load producer cars at locations on CN property in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the Peace River region of British Columbia. A listing of these sites is available on the CN website [www.cn.ca/grain](http://www.cn.ca/grain). CN works closely with the **Canadian Grain Commission** in order to manage car orders for producer car loading sites. Please refer to the following link for more specific information concerning producer car ordering <https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/en/protection/cars>.

Safety is a deeply held core value at CN. We work together to ensure everyone goes home safely. That extends to our customers as well. We do everything we can to ensure our operations are safe and your cargo is handled with care and caution. As customers, you help CN keep moving safely by ensuring key elements are in place. The safety section of the CN website contains a customer-specific section that includes the CN Customer Safety Handbook and other relevant information about safe operating practices. This information is pertinent to producer car loading sites as well.

<https://www.cn.ca/en/customer-centre/safety-guidelines-and-regulations/>

### Use of Producer Car Loading Sites

In order for customers to take advantage of producer car loading sites, it is mandatory that they are able to operate on-site in a safe manner consistent with CN operating practices along with applicable workplace health and safety regulations.

<https://www.cn.ca/en/customer-centre/safety-guidelines-and-regulations/loading-rules-instructions/>



Failure to follow these safety standards will result in a site no longer being made available for customers' use. Examples of customer activities that have resulted in restrictions of use of CN-served producer car loading facilities include:

- pulling/moving hopper cars with a chain attached to a truck;
- talking via use of a cell phone while operating equipment;
- leaving grain loading equipment set up alongside a hopper car unattended overnight;
- not using fall protection system while loading hopper cars;
- leaving vehicles, material or machinery foul of adjacent live trackage.





In some situations, the restrictions have been lifted once a satisfactory customer corrective action plan is submitted for approval by **CN Operations** and a **CN Safety Personnel**.

## Specific Requirements

Safe operating practices apply to all individuals while on CN property – employees, contractors and visitors, including customers. The CN Customer Safety Handbook describes the safety rules in place on CN property in detail. A link to the handbook can be found at <https://www.cn.ca/en/customer-centre/safety-guidelines-and-regulations>

*The following is not an exhaustive list of all procedures that must be followed while on CN property, but we have highlighted several common to producer car loading practices.*

### Personal Protection

The use of specific **personal protective equipment (PPE)** is required on CN property, including safety shoes, reflective vests, gloves, hard hats, safety glasses and face mask.

Railcar loaders must also use **fall protection equipment** when working at a height (e.g. on top of rail cars), which also requires specific training. Different versions of fall protection equipment are used across the grain handling industry, and three examples are presented below suitable for loading sites without permanent fall protection systems.

*For any fall protection equipment chosen, a recovery/rescue plan is necessary. These step-by-step procedures for self-rescue or assisted rescue must be readily available on-site in the event of an incident.*



**Figure 1.** Fall protection - ladder / platform system



**Figure 2.** Fall protection - articulated boom ladder



**Figure 3.** Fall protection - double-hook safety harness with shock absorber lanyard







## Safety Around Tracks and Equipment

Track clearance restrictions have been developed to protect the safety of people and equipment when moving railcars. In general, all equipment, materials or obstructions of any kind must be kept a minimum of 5 metres (15 feet) from the nearest rail unless a CN representative has placed a block on train movements. This includes temporary piles of stock, refuse containers, parked vehicles or other equipment, buildings and obstructions. Machinery and equipment cannot be operated within 30 feet (10 metres) of a CN main track or siding without CN authority and protection. This applies to all types of equipment, including snow clearing machinery.

*Customers are NOT permitted under any circumstances to move hopper cars once placed by CN on a producer car loading facility track.*



**Blue flags** are used within the railroad industry to indicate that work is in progress on or near rail tracks and equipment. When in use, the track is locked at both ends to prevent other equipment from gaining access to it. Customers, including grain producers, are required to use blue flags to protect the tracks they are accessing to load rail cars.

### Car Loading Rules

**Loading rules and guidelines** are established by the Railway Association of Canada and the Association of American Railroads, including top loading of cars. Links to the relevant rules for open top loading can be found at [www.aar.com/standards/damage-publications.php](http://www.aar.com/standards/damage-publications.php)

**Do not overload your car.** Check the tare weight, load limit and capacity of the car you have received. The weight of the grain you put in your car must not exceed the load limit of the car. Furthermore, the tare weight plus the weight of your grain must not exceed the **maximum gross weight capacity** of the route to destination.

### eRailSafe

All persons performing work on CN property must complete an eRailSafe course. Proof of completion must be available upon request at the producer loading site.

<https://erailsafe.com/canada>

### Training

CN offers safety-related training at its Winnipeg training campus and encourages customers to participate. Accredited contractors also offer similar training.

For additional information concerning the use of producer car loading sites, please contact CN at 1-877-208-5019 or email [producer\\_car\\_loading\\_inquiries@cn.ca](mailto:producer_car_loading_inquiries@cn.ca).