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## **Topics**

- Track Structure as a System
- Curves and Curve Geometry
- Turnouts and components
- Derails
- OWLS and Jump Frogs
- Track Geometry











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#### **Curves and Curve Geometry** 2 characteristics of curves



#### **Elevation**

Alignment







# Railroad Definition of a Curve

#### Degree of curve is the angle $\phi$ subtended by a 100 ft. chord







#### Stringlining using 62 ft. Chord



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# **Degree of Curve & Radius**

Degree of Curve 1	Mid-Ordinate of a 62' Chord 1"	Radius of Curve 5730'
2	2"	2865'
3	3"	1910'
5	5"	1146
10	10"	573'



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How to determine frog number





Heavy wear on switch point protector

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#### § 213.205 Derails.

(a) Each derail shall be clearly visible. (b) When in a locked position, a derail shall be free of lost motion which would prevent it from performing its intended function.

(c) Each derail shall be maintained to

(d) Each derail shall be properly installed for the rail to which it is applied. (This paragraph (d) is applicable September 21, 1999.)

DERAILS









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# **Individual Geometry Topics**

- Gage
- Curves and Curve Alignment
- Superelevation
- Crosslevel Variance and Deviation
- Vertical Profile
- Runoff from a Raise





## Gage, Alignment, Profile, and Crosslevel Variations



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## **Gage and Alignment Variations**



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## **<u>Crosslevel and Alignment Variations</u><sup>27</sup>**



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### **Surface and Profile Deviations**











#### § 213.13 Measuring track not under load.

When unloaded track is measured to determine compliance with requirements of this part, the amount of rail movement, if any, that occurs while the track is loaded must be added to the measurements of the unloaded track.







## **For North American Freight Operations**<sup>30</sup>

#### **CLASSES OF TRACK**

50	<b>OPERATING SPEEDS (MPH)</b>				
CLASS	1FREIGHT		<sup>2.</sup> PASSENGER		
	FROM	ТО	FROM	то	
1	1	10	1	15	
2	11	25	16	30	
3	26	40	31	60	
4	41	60	61	80	
5	61	80	81	90	

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#### § 213.53 Gage.

(a) Gage is measured between the heads of the rails at right-angles to the rails in a plane five-eighths of an inch below the top of the rail head.

(b) Gage shall be within the limits prescribed in the following table —



Class of track	The gage must be at least—	But not more than—
Excepted track.Class 1 trackClass 2 and 3 trackClass 4 and 5 track	N/A 4'8" 4'8" 4'8"	4'10¼" 4'10" 4'9¾" 4'9½"

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# Gage – Distance between the rail heads measured 5/8" below top of rail





#### **Dynamic Gage Widening**

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		Gage 56.5"		
		Base Gage		
	Rail Wt.	Base Gage	Base Gage	
		Decimal(in.)	Fraction(in.)	
	100	54.16	54 5/32	
	115	53.96	53 31/32	
	119	53.91	53 29/32	
	132	53.77	53 <sup>3</sup> ⁄4	
	133	53.69	53 11/16	
	136	53.72	53 23/32	
	141	53.72	53 23/32	
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#### Subpart C - Track Geometry §213.53 Gage

Particular attention should be given to track gage in turnouts or locations where high lateral train forces are expected or evident.

These areas include the curved closure rails, the toe and heel of frogs, the curved track behind the frog and several feet ahead of the switch points.






### **Checking Gage in a Turnout at Multiple locations**







### 213.143 Guard Check and Face Gage

The guard check and guard face gages in frogs shall be within the limits prescribed by the following table:

Class of Track	Guard Check gage may not be <u>less</u> than	Guard Face gage may not be <u>more</u> than
Class 1	4' 6 1/8"	4' 5 ¼"
Class 2	4' 6 ¼"	4' 5 1/8"
Class 3 & 4	4' 6 3/8"	4' 5 1/8"
Class 5	4' 6 1⁄2"	4' 5"



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### **Class 5 Track**

Guard Check- Gage Line of frog to Guard Line

Minimum = 54 1/2"

Guard Face -Distance Between Wing Rail and Guard Line

Maximum = 53 "





## **Alignment Deviations**









#### § 213.55 Track alinement.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, alinement may not deviate from uniformity more than the amount prescribed in the following table:

Class of Track	Tangent Track	Curved T	irack
	The deviation of the mid-offset from a 62-foot line [1] may not be more than	The deviation of the mid- ordinate from a 31-foot chord [2] may not be more than	The deviation of the mid-ordinate from a 62-foot chord [2] may not be more than
1	5"	N/A <sup>3</sup>	5"
2	3"	N/A <sup>3</sup>	3"
3	134"	1¼″	1¾"
4	11/2"	1"	11/2"
5	3/4 "	1⁄2″	×"

[1] The ends of the line must be at points on the gage side of the line rail, five-eights of an inch below the top of the railhead. Either rail may be used as the line rail, however, the same rail must be used for the full length of that tangential segment of track.

[2] The ends of the chord must be at points on the gage side of the outer rail, five-eighths of an inch below the top of the railhead.

[3] N/A - Not Applicable

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In Classes 3 through 5, both the 31-foot and 62-foot chords must be used, and corresponding measurements must be calculated to determine compliance with the required alinement thresholds. If alinement defects are found using both the 31-foot and the 62-foot chord, the inspector should report the item as one defect and note that the defect does not comply with the requirements for the second chord, e.g., "1¾ inches alinement deviation on curved track for 62-foot chord. Note: 1‰ inches alinement deviation for 31-foot chord at this location."





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A 31' chord may pick up short wavelength deviations

62' chord may not pick up short wavelength deviations

# Why use a 31 ft. chord in certain situations?

- 1. Short wavelength deviations
- 2. Higher degree curves, easier to measure
- 3. Must use 31' chord for Class 3-5
- 4. Easier to measure in high winds













+4 To Establish Uniformity, measure out Nine 31' stations, 4 ahead of and 4 behind the Station of concern. Measure the Mid-chord offset Of each station using a 62' chord. Average the nine Stations and this determines Uniformity. The difference Between the MCO at the station of concern, and the Average uniformity is the "deviation from Uniformity".

()

+1

-1

-2

-3

Determining compliance with FRA Alignment Standard using 9 point averaging method



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Station of Concern

+3

+2

#### § 213.63 Track surface.

# (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each track owner shall maintain the surface of its track within the limits prescribed in the following table:

Track surface (inches)		Class of track				
Track surface (incres)	1	2	3	4	5	
The runoff in any 31 feet of rail at the end of a raise may not be more than	3 1/2	3	2	1 1/2	1	
The deviation from uniform profile on either rail at the mid-ordinate of a 62-foot chord may not be more than	3	2 3/4	2 1/4	2	1 1/4	
The deviation from zero crosslevel at any point on tangent or reverse crosslevel elevation on curves may not be more than	3	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1	
The difference in crosslevel between any two points less than 62 feet apart may not be more than <sup>* 12</sup>	3	2 1/4	2	1 3/4	1 1/2	
*Where determined by engineering decision prior to June 22, 1998, due to physical restrictions on spiral length and operating practices and experience, the variation in crosslevel on spirals per 31 feet may not be more than	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1	3/4	

<sup>1</sup>Except as limited by § 213.57(a), where the elevation at any point in a curve equals or exceeds 6 inches, the difference in crosslevel within 62 feet between that point and a point with greater elevation may not be more than 11/2 inches.

<sup>2</sup>However, to control harmonics on Class 2 through 5 jointed track with staggered joints, the crosslevel differences shall not exceed 11/4 inches in all of six consecutive pairs of joints, as created by seven low joints. Track with joints staggered less than 10 feet apart shall not be considered as having staggered joints. Joints within the seven low joints outside of the regular joint spacing shall not be considered as joints for purposes of this footnote.

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### **Vertical Profile**













### **Curve Superelevation and Crosslevel**

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## <u>2 Key Words Used</u> in the FRA Regulations

- **1. Variation or Difference**
- 2. Deviation

# They sound similar, but have different; yet, important, meanings.







This is a <u>variance or difference</u> in two Crosslevel measurements over 62'. Variations are relative differences between any two measurements. This is a <u>deviation</u> from zero Crosslevel; or a deviation from where the Crosslevel should be. Deviations are singular measurements.



### § 213.13 Measuring track not under load.

When unloaded track is measured to determine compliance with requirements of this part, the amount of rail movement, if any, that occurs while the track is loaded must be added to the measurements of the unloaded track.





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The deviation from uniform profile on either rail at the mid-ordinate of a 62-foot chord may not be more than	3	2 3/4	2 1/4	2	1 1/4		
The deviation from zero crosslevel at any point on tangent or reverse crosslevel elevation on curves may not be more than	3	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1		
The difference in crosslevel between any two points less than 62 feet apart may not be more than <sup>* 12</sup>	3	2 1/4	2	13/4	1 1/2		
*Where determined by engineering decision prior to June 22, 1998, due to physical restrictions on spiral length and operating practices and experience, the variation in crosslevel on spirals per 31 feet may not be	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1	3/4		

<sup>1</sup>Except as limited by § 213.57(a), where the elevation at any point in a curve equals or exceeds 6 inches, the difference in crosslevel within 62 feet between that point and a point with greater elevation may not be more than 11/2 inches.

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more than



## **Crosslevel Variations**





Any two Crosslevel measurements less than 62' apart











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The deviation from uniform profile on either rail at the mid-ordinate of a 62-foot chord may not be more than	3	2 3/4	2 1/4	2	1 1/4		
The deviation from zero crosslevel at any point on tangent or reverse crosslevel elevation on curves may not be more than	3	2	13/4	1 1/4	1		
The difference in crosslevel between any two points less than 62 feet apart may not be more than <sup>* 12</sup>	3	2 1/4	2	13/4	1 1/2		
*Where determined by engineering decision prior to June 22, 1998, due to physical restrictions on spiral length and operating practices and experience, the variation in crosslevel on spirals per 31 feet may not be more than	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1	3/4		

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## **Crosslevel Deviations**



Deviation from Zero Crosslevel at any point on tangent, or reverse crosslevel in curves may not be more than

	1	2	3	4	5	Class	
	3"	2"	1 3⁄4"	1 1/4"	1 " 🖸	eviation	2020
O PRINGIPLE.				Ra	ilway Consultin	g	



Wheel Unloading/Lift due to Crosslevel Variation Between rear and front trucks







#### MEASURING CROSSLEVEL NOT UNDER LOAD

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The deviation from uniform profile on either rail at the mid-ordinate of a 62-foot chord may not be more than	3	2 3/4	2 1/4	2	1 1/4		
The deviation from zero crosslevel at any point on tangent or reverse crosslevel elevation on curves may not be more than	3	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1		
The difference in crosslevel between any two points less than 62 feet apart may not be more than <sup>* 12</sup>	3	2 1/4	2	13/4	1 1/2		
*Where determined by engineering decision prior to June 22, 1998, due to physical restrictions on spiral length and operating practices and experience, the variation in crosslevel on spirals per 31 feet may not be more than	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1	3/4		

<sup>1</sup>Except as limited by § 213.57(a), where the elevation at any point in a curve equals or exceeds 6 inches, the difference in crosslevel within 62 feet between that point and a point with greater elevation may not be more than 11/2 inches.

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Staggered Jointed Rail (Joints staggered greater than 10' apart)







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The runoff in any 31 feet of rail at the end of a raise may not be more than	3 1/2	3	2	1 1/2	1	
The deviation from uniform profile on either rail at the mid-ordinate of a 62-foot chord may not be more than	3	2 3/4	2 1/4	2	1 1/4	
The deviation from zero crosslevel at any point on tangent or reverse crosslevel elevation on curves may not be more than	3	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1	
The difference in crosslevel between any two points less than 62 feet apart may not be more than <sup>* 12</sup>	3	2 1/4	2	13/4	1 1/2	
*Where determined by engineering decision prior to June 22, 1998, due to physical restrictions on spiral length and operating practices and experience, the variation in crosslevel on spirals per 31 feet may not be more than	2	13/4	1 1/4	1	3/4	

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### **VARIATION IN CROSSLEVEL ON SPIRALS**



	CLASS OF TRACK						
	1	2	3	4	5		
VARIATION IN CROSSLEVEL ON SPIRALS IN ANY 31' MAY NOT BE ANY MORE THAN	2"	1 3/4"	1 1/4"	1"	3/4*		



### **Class 5 Spiral - PTS to PSC**









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	1	2	3	4	5		
The runoff in any 31 feet of rail at the end of a raise may not be more than	3 1/2	3	2	1 1/2	1		
The deviation from uniform profile on either rail at the mid-ordinate of a 62-foot chord may not be more than	3	2 3/4	2 1/4	2	1 1/4		
The deviation from zero crosslevel at any point on tangent or reverse crosslevel elevation on curves may not be more than	3	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1		
The difference in crosslevel between any two points less than 62 feet apart may not be more than <sup>* 12</sup>	3	2 1/4	2	1 3/4	1 1/2		
*Where determined by engineering decision prior to June 22, 1998, due to physical restrictions on spiral length and operating practices and experience, the variation in crosslevel on spirals per 31 feet may not be more than	2	1 3/4	1 1/4	1	3/4		

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### **Vertical Profile Deviations**



## Vertical profile deviation caused by poor subgrade





### **DEVIATION FROM UNIFORM PROFILE**



	CLASS OF TRACK					
	1	2	3	4	5	
THE DEVIATION FROM UNIFORM PROFILE ON EITHER RAIL AT THE MID-ORDINATE OF A 62' CHORD MAY NOT BE MORE THAN	3*	2 3/4"	2 1/4"	2*	1 1/4"	









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The deviation from zero crosslevel at any point on tangent or reverse crosslevel elevation on curves may not be more than	3	2	13/4	1 1/4	1
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## **Frost Heaves causing a raise in the track due to track degradation**









Rate of Runoff over 31 feet





YOU NEED A 4 1/2" RUNOFF FROM A RAISE

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### **Multiple Defects in Succession**

#### § 213.1 Scope of part.

(a) This part prescribes minimum safety requirements for railroad track that is part of the general railroad system of transportation. The requirements prescribed in this part apply to specific track conditions existing in isolation. Therefore, a combination of track conditions, none of which individually amounts to a deviation from the requirements in this part, may require remedial action to provide for safe operations over that track. This part does not restrict a railroad from adopting and enforcing additional or more stringent requirements not inconsistent with this part.

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