

## Chapter PSC 82

## RAILROAD CLEARANCES

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**History:** Chapter PSC 82, consisting of sections PSC 82.01, 82.02 and 82.03, as it existed on February 28, 1965, was repealed, and a new chapter PSC 82 was created effective March 1, 1965.

**PSC 82.01 Application of chapter.** Clearance standards established herein shall apply to each railroad operating in Wisconsin and lands adjacent to all railroad tracks with respect to new construction or reconstruction of tracks and structures and other conditions after the effective date of this chapter. Construction, installation and operation of electric power, communication and signal lines and equipment shall comply with the Wisconsin State Electrical Code designated as "E" in the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The exemptions referred to in Wis. Adm. Code chapter PSC 82 are not applicable to requirements of the Wisconsin State Electrical Code.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1965, No. 110, eff. 3-1-65.

**PSC 82.02 Clearances between tracks.** The horizontal clearance between the centers of adjacent and parallel tracks shall not be less than 14 feet.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1965, No. 110, eff. 3-1-65.

**PSC 82.03 Horizontal clearances.** (1) Except for railroad passenger platforms and railroad freight platforms, no structure shall be constructed or reconstructed on either side of any railroad track less than 8 feet 6 inches from the track center line; and a clear and unobstructed working space shall be maintained on both sides of any railroad track, not less than 8 feet 6 inches from the track center line.

(2) Platforms at passenger stations used for loading and unloading passengers, baggage, mail, and express may be constructed and maintained as follows:

(a) Such a platform which is not higher than 4 inches above the top of the rail shall be not less than 4 feet 6 inches from the center line of the adjacent track;

(b) Such a platform which is more than 4 inches but not higher than 8 inches above the top of the rail shall be not less than 5 feet 1 inch from the center line of the adjacent track;

(c) Such a platform which is more than 8 inches but not higher than 1 foot 9 inches above the top of the rail shall be not less than 6 feet from the center line of the adjacent track;

(d) Such a platform which is higher than 1 foot 9 inches above the top of the rail of a main track shall be not less than 8 feet from the center line thereof.

(3) Railroad freight platforms not more than 5 feet in height above the top of rail may be constructed with a clearance of not less than 6 feet 4 inches from the track center line of railroad tracks other

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than main line, yard lead, or industrial lead tracks, provided a clear and unobstructed working space of not less than 8 feet 6 inches from the track center line is maintained on the side of the track opposite such platforms.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1965, No. 110, eff. 3-1-65.

**PSC 82.04 Curved track clearances.** The minimum clearances standards in Wis. Adm. Code sections PSC 82.02 and PSC 82.03 are for straight tracks and these minimum clearances shall be increased 1 inch for each degree of curvature when the track or tracks are curved.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1965, No. 110, eff. 3-1-65.

**PSC 82.05 Vertical clearances.** No structure which is less than 22 feet above the top of rail shall be constructed or reconstructed over a railroad track or over the area 8 feet 6 inches from the track center line on each side of a railroad track.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1965, No. 110, eff. 3-1-65.

**PSC 82.06 Exemptions.** (1) Materials used by a railroad for repair or construction just prior to and during the period such work is in progress, and railroad structures and facilities necessary for the operations of trains for which it is impracticable to provide the minimum clearances, are exempted from the provisions of Wis. Adm. Code sections PSC 82.03 and PSC 82.04.

(2) Upon written application and after public hearing, the commission may grant exemption from the clearance requirements of this chapter upon a finding that the clearances proposed will not imperil life or limb and that public interest requires or permits such clearance. The findings and order granting exemption shall be in writing and shall contain complete provisions and requirements as to the clearances to be maintained.

(3) Wherever any overhead structure or any part thereof is less than 22 feet above the top of rail, every railroad corporation or industry shall maintain telltales of suitable construction installed over each track at such distances from the obstruction as shall provide adequate security against accident; except that if the commission finds that the installation of a telltale at any particular place would be impracticable or would result in any increased hazard to either the public or an employe and that either or both such factors outweigh the safety benefit which would result from the installation of a telltale, the commission may enter an order providing an exemption from this subsection. Such exemption shall be ordered by the commission only after written application and public hearing.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1965, No. 110, eff. 3-1-65.