Government of India
Ministry of Railways
(Railway Board)

No.TC-I/2009/201/2 New Delhi, dt. 9 .12.2009

GM(Comml.)
All Indian Railways.

Sub: Wharfage & Demurrage rule in respect of Parcel/Luggage Traffic
Ref: Board's letter No.TC-I/91/201/7 dt.30.11.1992, 1.12.1992 & 7.12.1994

In supersession of all earlier instructions on the subject, revised guidelines regarding levy of Wharfage and Demurrage Charge on Parcel/Luggage Traffic are given below. Wherever, not specifically mentioned, the guidelines will apply to leased as well as non-leased traffic.

2.0 Wharfage rules

2.1 WHARFAGE CHARGE

Wharfage charge should be levied on consignment not removed from railway premises after the expiry of free time (Section 2(41) of The Railways Act 1989). No Wharfage will be levied on the consignment held by Railway administration on lien in terms of Section 83 of The Railways Act 1989.

2.2 CLASSIFICATION OF STATIONS

For the purpose of granting free time for removal of consignment and levy of Wharfage, stations will be classified into two groups: (i) 'Notified stations' i.e. stations which are notified in terms of sub-section (1) of Section 89 of The Railways Act 1989 and (ii) Other than Notified Stations.

2.3 PERMISSIBLE FREE TIME FOR REMOVAL

Permissible free time for removal of consignment (other than leased) from railway premise will be as given below:

Type of station	Permissible free time for removal	
	Parcel/Luggage	Livestock*
Notified stations	8 hours of working of parcel office after consignment is available for delivery	4 hours of working of Parcel Office after consignment is received at the destination
Other than Notified Stations	16 hours of working of parcel office after consignment is available for delivery.	

*Under any circumstances, livestock shall be removed from the Railway premise within 24 hours from the time of their arrival at destination, failing which they may be disposed

off in accordance with the provisions contained in sub-section (2) of Section 84 of The Railways Act 1989.

2.3.1 In case of leased traffic, free time for removal of consignment at destination station and free time for advance stacking at originating station shall be applicable as per the leasing policy.

2.4 RECKONING OF NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

National Holidays, namely 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October will not be reckoned in calculating free time for removal from railway premise and for charging Wharfage except in the case of (i) live stock, perishable items at all stations and (ii) parcel/luggage unloaded at 'Notified Stations'.

2.5 WHARFAGE RATES

Wharfage Charge will be levied for excess detention of consignment at railway premise at the rates prescribed below:

Type of station	Rate of Wharfage Charge	
	Parcel/Luggage	Livestock#
Notified stations	Rs.1.00 per 50 kg or part thereof per hour or part of an hour	Rs.10.00 per head per hour or part of an hour
Other than Notified Stations	Rs.0.50 per 50 kg or part thereof per hour or part of an hour	Rs.10.00 per head per hour or part of an hour

#The expenses entailed in feeding the livestock will also be leviable irrespective of the fact whether the livestock was removed within the free time or beyond free time.

2.6 HIGHER WHARFAGE CHARGE

Higher Wharfage rates may be notified by the Railway Administration after following the same procedure and at such higher rates as laid down for goods traffic. Presently, Higher Wharfage Charge can be levied upto six times the normal rate for that station and shall be applied in stages.

3.0 Demurrage rules

3.1 DEMURRAGE CHARGE

Demurrage Charge should be levied for the detention of any rolling stock after the expiry of free time, if any, allowed for such detention (Section 2(11) of The Railways Act 1989).

3.2 PERMISSIBLE FREE TIME FOR LOADING/UNLOADING

3.2.1 Covered Wagons (like BCN, BCX etc.)
The permissible free time for loading/unloading of covered wagons when loaded with parcel traffic will be the same as stipulated for goods traffic from time to time. At present, the permissible free time for covered wagons for goods traffic is as under:-

Number of covered wagons	Permissible free time (in hours and minutes)	
	Loading	Unloading
Upto 20 wagons	5:00	5:00
21 to 30 wagons	7:00	7:00
31 wagons and more	9:00	9:00

3.2.2 Parcel Vans (like VP, VPU, VPH, VPHX, etc.)

The permissible free time for loading/unloading of Parcel Vans/rakes will be as prescribed below:

Number of Parcel Vans	Permissible free time (in hours and minutes)	
	Loading	Unloading
Upto 3 Vans	3:00	3:00
4 to 10 Vans	5:00	5:00
11 to 15 Vans	6:00	6:00
16 to 20 Vans	7:00	7:00
21 Vans and more	8:00	8:00

In case there is unloading and back-loading of the same parcel vans at a terminal, the free time for,unloading and loading will be permitted separately.

3.3 DEMURRAGE RATES

Demurrage Charge including Penal Demurrage Charge if any will be levied for excess detention of wagon/van at the rate prescribed for goods wagon from time to time. However, in case of detention to individual wagon/van resulting in detention to the entire rake, Demurrage will be charged on the entire rake.

3.4 LEVY OF DEMURRAGE IN CASE OF MULTI-PARTY/MULTI-CONSIGNOR/MULTI-CONSIGNEE RAKES

In the case of multi-party/multi-consignor/multi-consignee rakes, Demurrage Charge will be levied as per the instructions prescribed for goods traffic. At present the relevant instructions are stipulated vide Rates Circular No.43 of 2005.

4.0 **Waiver/Write off of Wharfage/Demurrage Charge**

Extant rules for waiver/write off of both Wharfage and Demurrage charge for goods traffic will apply *in toto* to cases of waiver/write off of Wharfage and Demurrage Charge on parcel/luggage traffic.

5.0 These instructions will be implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2010

6.0 This issues with the concurrence of Finance Directorate of the Ministry of Railways.

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Director, Traffic Comml.(Rates)
Railway Board

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for **Financial Commissioner/Railways**

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3. General Secy., IRCA, New Delhi.
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5. Director General, Railway Staff College, Vadodara
6. Director, IRITM, Campus: Hardoi Bye-pass Road, Vill-Kanausi, P.O.-Manaknagar, Lucknow-226011
7. Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Lucknow.

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Director, Traffic Comml.(Rates)
Railway Board

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