

Decision No. 33707

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Investigation on  
the Commission's own motion into the  
reasonableness of proposed minimum  
clearances on railroads and street rail-  
roads with reference to side structures,  
overhead structures, parallel tracks and  
crossings of railroads, street railroads,  
streets and public highways.

ORIGINAL

Case No. 2290

BY THE COMMISSION:

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

The Union Pacific Railroad Company on November 28, 1940, requested authority to operate over its main line, in both directions between the California-Nevada line and its east yard at Los Angeles and thence to North Long Beach over its San Pedro Branch, freight cars having a height of 16' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the top of the rail to the running board. In this request it is alleged that these cars are to be employed solely in the transportation of airplane wings and accessories from Detroit, Michigan, to North Long Beach, California, the property being of such a size as to require extra large equipment to accommodate it. This situation arises in connection with the present national defense program. It is not contemplated that these cars shall be employed in any other service, and their use within this state will be discontinued upon the termination of this emergency.

It appearing that freight cars of this height may be operated with reasonable safety over applicant's line in California if proper precautions are taken to give warning to trainmen of any possible impaired clearance, it is believed that the application should be granted without hearing thereon.

Therefore, good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Union Pacific Railroad Company is authorized to equip not to exceed 100 freight cars and operate same in either direction over the main and branch line referred to above, having a height from top of rail to top of running board not to exceed 16' 3", subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The use of these cars shall be restricted to the transportation of airplane equipment and accessories. The cars shall be used only during the present national defense program.
- (2) The cars shall be stenciled on all four corners approximately 5' above the top of rail with yellow letters 3" high, reading as follows:  

"THIS CAR EXCESS HEIGHT  
16' 3" HIGH ABOVE TOP OF RAIL"
- (3) Tell-tales shall be established at all locations where overhead structures are located with less than 23' vertical clearance and suspended wires having a height of less than 25' above the top of rail.
- (4) When any train containing cars of excess height is operated, such cars of excess height shall be blocked in a single unit; and, if the total number of cars in the train permits, such cars of excess height shall be so located in the train as to be at least five cars distant from either the caboose or the engine.
- (5) The crew of all trains containing cars of excess height, the operation of which is authorized herein, shall be furnished a Form 19 train order advising that the consist of the train includes cars of excess height and specifying number thereof.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of  
December, 1940.

*Ray L. Cline*  
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*Frank Stewart*  
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*John P. ...*  
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*Justin F. Craven*  
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COMMISSIONERS