1. **Bulk Loading - General Requirements**

1.1 The carriage of bulk loads in open or hopper wagons brings with it the risk that heavier items can fall out of the wagon. For lighter traffics, the risk is that items can be blown away. In principle, the larger the individual items of material being carried, the less high above the wagon sides they may be loaded.

1.2 Sheets or nets shall not be used as load restraint. They are for weather or blow-off protection only. Blow-off can also be controlled by the use of chemical spray after loading is completed. This forms a skin on top of the load.

1.3 Loading/unloading buckets, grabs, magnets or other mechanical equipment shall not be allowed to forcefully strike the ends or sides of wagons. Buckets shall be flat and not have 'ripper teeth' fitted.

1.4 Wagons shall not be overloaded under any circumstances. Wagons shall also be loaded evenly throughout. If a wagon has been part discharged, then the unloading agent shall redistribute the load evenly throughout the vehicle before being released back to traffic.

Overloading of wagons can occur in several ways:

- By exceeding the gross laden weight for the type of wagon being loaded.
- By exceeding the cubic capacity (volume) of the wagon being loaded and thus risking material spilling over sides of the wagon.
- By loading the bulk of the load to one end or one side of the wagon thereby overloading axles, bogies or bearings.
- By a combination of any of the above.

1.5 Wagons can either be loaded level with the top of the wagon raves (top of the sides and ends of the wagon) or have a small amount of load above the rave. This is called a peak.

1.6 As a guide for normal railway ballast, wagons are permitted to have a peak along the wagon of approximately 300 mm. There shall however be a recess below the rave of at least 100 mm. This allows for any settlement of the peak to fall and remain in the wagon. If material is larger than normal railway ballast, the peak shall be reduced. Peaks shall be considered to be an integral part of the load.

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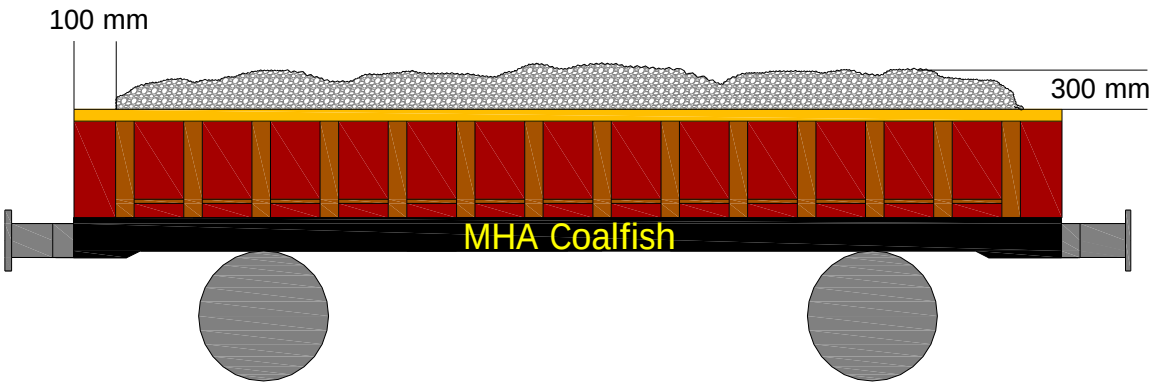
1.7 When loading high sided box wagons, product shall not be visible above the sides of the wagon. Remove any loose material from wagon sides or ends.



1.8 Any large items such as sleepers or tree branches shall not be loaded as part of the peak. They shall be loaded in separate wagons.

1.9 Some types of wagons, such as Pike wagons, have cargo winches fitted along each solebar. Above each winch a slot is cut in the floor to enable load-securing straps to pass through. Wagons so equipped shall not be used for aggregate traffic. Bass wagons (OAA/OBA/OCA) have gaps between the doors and the wagon body so shall not be loaded with spoil or ballast.

1.10 Doors that have become bowed allow small items such as ballast to fall through the gap between the wagon door and floor. They can also render the wagon out of gauge.

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