Alberta IROR Rule 8 – Blue Signal Protector – Blue Flag Derails

8.5 – Blue Flag Derails – These derails are used in conjunction with blue flags and must be in the derailing position only when protection for personnel is required. When protection is no longer required, they must be locked in a non-derailing position.

CROR Rule 104.5 – DERAILS

(f) Derails used in conjunction with blue flags will be in the derailing position only when protection for personnel is required. When protection is no longer required, they will be locked in a non-derailing position.

SITUATION: A loading crew has completed loading 8 tank cars on a loading rack, which has been protected with a blue flag and derail. The switch crew is now required to pull the 8 loaded tank cars, and respot 8 empties for loading, utilizing a rail car mover. The loading crew removes the blue flag and places the derail into the non-derailing position.

QUESTION: With the crew returning to spot 8 empties, must the derail be secured and locked in the non-derailing position?

ANSWER: Yes, per IROR Rule 8, Item 8.5, and CROR Rule 104.5 (f), when derails used in conjunction with blue flags are no longer required for protection, they must be secured and locked in the non-derailing position.

INTERPRETATION: Derails are utilized in conjunction with blue flags to protect personnel during loading and unloading processes. They are only to placed into the derailing position when protection is required. When the blue flag is not required to be displayed the derail must be placed into the non-derailing position and locked.

SUMMARY: Blue flag protection, including blue flag derails are considered a form "Lock Out". When protection is no longer required, all safety appliances, blue flags and derails must be removed and / or locked to prevent unintended use.

When a movement is approaching the location of any derail, crew members must communicate between each other, the status of the derail *(either set in the derailing or non-derailing position)*.