

Train Length Guide

Severe cold and high snowfall present challenging conditions to safe railway operations, primarily to our braking system. As part of CN's winter operating plan, when temperatures fall below -25C, train length is restricted following a tiered system to ensure safe operations.

Maximum Train Length (In Feet) Allowed at Specific Temperatures

			A – AIR SOURCES (1x1x0)			B – ADDITIONAL AIR SOURCES ADDED
TIER LEVEL	TEMPERATURE		CONVENTIONAL (HE ONLY AIR SOURCE)	MAX DISTANCE BETWEEN AIR SOURCES	MAX TRAIN LENGTH	3RD, 4TH, 5TH AIR SOURCE
	°C	°F				
ALL NON-INTERMODAL, NON-SINGLE-COMMODITY TRAINS						
Tier 1	-25	-13	7,000	6,000	9,000	For each additional air source added beyond the 1x1x0 configuration, permissible train length can be increased by 1500 feet per additional air source, up to a maximum train length of 12,000 feet. Maximum of five air sources to be used on a train.
Tier 2	-31	-24	5,000	5,000	7,500	
Tier 3	-36	-33	4,000	4,000	6,000	
ALL INTERMODAL AND BULK COMMODITY TRAINS						
Tier 1	-25	-13	8,000	6,667	10,000	For each additional air source added beyond the 1x1x0 configuration, permissible train length can be increased by 2000 feet per additional air source, up to a maximum train length of 12,000 feet. Maximum of five air sources to be used on a train.
Tier 2	-31	-24	6,000	5,667	8,500	
Tier 3	-36	-33	4,500	4,500	6,700	

