Bnsf Gcore Rules Ebook

bnsf gcore rules are essential guidelines established by the BNSF Railway to ensure safety, efficiency, and compliance across their operations. Whether you're a new employee, a contractor, or a stakeholder involved in BNSF activities, understanding these rules is critical to maintaining operational integrity and promoting a safe working environment. This article provides a comprehensive overview of BNSF GCORE rules, their significance, key components, and best practices for compliance.

Understanding BNSF GCORE Rules

What Are BNSF GCORE Rules?

BNSF GCORE (General Compliance and Operating Rules Essentials) are a set of standardized guidelines that govern daily operations within BNSF Railway. These rules aim to promote safety, operational consistency, and regulatory compliance across all facets of the company's activities, including train operations, maintenance, and employee conduct.

The GCORE rules are designed to create a unified operational culture that emphasizes safety-first principles and accountability. They are regularly reviewed and updated to incorporate new safety standards, technological advancements, and industry best practices.

The Importance of GCORE Rules

Adhering to GCORE rules is vital for several reasons:

- Safety: Minimize accidents, injuries, and environmental hazards.
- Efficiency: Ensure smooth and timely operations.
- Compliance: Meet federal and state regulations governing rail operations.
- Accountability: Foster a culture of responsibility among employees and contractors.
- Reputation: Maintain BNSF?s standing as a safe and reliable carrier.

Key Components of BNSF GCORE Rules

BNSF GCORE rules encompass various operational areas, but they can be broadly categorized into safety protocols, operational procedures, conduct standards, and reporting requirements.

1. Safety Protocols

Safety is the cornerstone of GCORE rules. Key safety protocols include:

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Mandatory use of PPE such as high-visibility clothing, gloves, safety glasses, and hearing protection.
- **Track Safety Rules:** Ensuring proper authorization before accessing tracks, adhering to signage, and following track protection procedures.
- **Equipment Inspection:** Regular checks and maintenance of rolling stock, signals, and safety devices.
- **Hazard Identification:** Prompt reporting of unsafe conditions or equipment failures.
- **Emergency Response:** Clear procedures for responding to accidents, derailments, or hazardous material spills.

2. Operational Procedures

Operational rules ensure the smooth movement of trains and cargo. These include:

- **Train Routing and Dispatching:** Proper communication and adherence to routing instructions.
- **Speed Restrictions:** Compliance with speed limits based on track conditions and environment.
- **Lockout/Tagout Procedures:** Ensuring equipment is de-energized before maintenance.
- **Switching and Shunting:** Safe handling of rail cars during movement and coupling.
- **Communication Protocols:** Use of radios and signaling to coordinate movements and operations.

3. Conduct Standards

Employee conduct is a critical aspect of GCORE rules. Standards include:

- **Professional Behavior:** Maintaining integrity, respect, and teamwork.
- **Substance Abuse Policy:** Strict prohibition of alcohol and drugs during work hours or while on duty.
- **Training and Certification:** Regular participation in safety training and certification updates.
- **Reporting Violations:** Encouraging employees to report unsafe behaviors or violations without fear of retaliation.

4. Reporting and Documentation

Accurate reporting underpins safety and operational integrity. Key points include:

- **Incident Reporting:** Immediate reporting of accidents, injuries, or hazards.
- **Record Keeping:** Maintaining logs of inspections, maintenance, and safety checks.
- **Audits and Compliance Checks:** Regular internal and external audits to ensure adherence to GCORE rules.

Implementing BNSF GCORE Rules: Best Practices

Successful implementation of GCORE rules requires commitment at all levels of the organization. Here are some best practices:

Training and Education

- Conduct comprehensive onboarding for new employees covering GCORE rules.
- Provide ongoing safety training sessions and refreshers.
- Use simulations and drills to reinforce emergency procedures.

Leadership and Accountability

- Managers and supervisors should lead by example in adhering to GCORE rules.
- Establish clear accountability mechanisms for violations.
- Recognize and reward compliance and safety achievements.

Communication and Feedback

- Maintain open channels for reporting safety concerns.
- Regularly review safety performance metrics.
- Encourage employee feedback to improve rules and procedures.

Technology and Tools

- Utilize modern communication devices to ensure clear coordination.
- Implement safety management software for tracking compliance.
- Use sensors and monitoring systems to detect hazards proactively.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to adhere to BNSF GCORE rules can lead to severe consequences, including:

- Disciplinary action, including suspension or termination.
- Increased risk of accidents and injuries.
- Legal liabilities and fines.
- Damage to company reputation.
- Disruption of operations and financial losses.

It is, therefore, imperative for all personnel involved to prioritize compliance and safety.

Conclusion

bnsf gcore rules are the backbone of safe and efficient railway operations. Understanding and following these guidelines not only protect individual employees but also uphold the integrity and reputation of BNSF Railway. Through comprehensive safety protocols, operational standards, conduct requirements, and diligent reporting, BNSF ensures a workplace that values safety, accountability, and continuous improvement. Whether you are part of the day-to-day operations or a stakeholder, embracing GCORE rules is essential for fostering a culture of safety and operational excellence.

Adhering to these rules helps prevent accidents, ensures regulatory compliance, and promotes a collaborative environment focused on safety and efficiency. Stay informed, stay compliant, and contribute to the safe operation of BNSF Railway.

Understanding the BNSF GCORE Rules: A Comprehensive Guide

In the complex world of freight rail operations, adhering to established safety and operational protocols is paramount. One of the key frameworks that govern these standards within BNSF Railway is the GCORE rules. These rules serve as a foundational guideline for ensuring safe, efficient, and compliant train movements across BNSF?s extensive network. For anyone involved in BNSF operations?be it conductors, engineers, or safety personnel?comprehending the BNSF GCORE rules is essential to maintaining safety integrity and operational excellence.

What Are the BNSF GCORE Rules?

The GCORE rules (short for General Operating Rules and Emergency Procedures) are a set of standardized instructions and procedures designed specifically for BNSF Railway employees. They outline the responsibilities, safety protocols, and operational standards necessary to execute safe train movements, prevent accidents, and effectively respond to emergencies.

These rules are part of BNSF?s broader safety culture and are aligned with federal regulations, industry best practices, and internal safety policies. They are regularly reviewed and updated to adapt to evolving operational needs and safety standards.

The Purpose and Importance of GCORE Rules

Ensuring Safety and Compliance

The primary purpose of GCORE rules is to safeguard personnel, the public, and the environment. By following these rules, employees help prevent accidents, derailments, and injuries.

Promoting Consistency

Standardization across the network ensures that all employees operate under a unified set of procedures, reducing confusion and mishandling of situations.

Enhancing Emergency Preparedness

The rules provide clear guidance on how to respond during various emergency scenarios, enabling swift and effective action.

Maintaining Operational Efficiency

While safety is paramount, GCORE rules are also designed to facilitate smooth and efficient train operations, minimizing delays and operational disruptions.

Core Components of BNSF GCORE Rules

The GCORE rules encompass several key areas, each critical to safe railway operations. Here is a detailed breakdown:

- General Operating Rules

These govern everyday train movements, communication protocols, and operational responsibilities.

- Safety Rules

Focused on employee safety, these include PPE requirements, track safety procedures, and hazard identification.

- Emergency Procedures

Guidelines on how to handle incidents such as derailments, accidents, or hazardous material spills.

- Communications Protocols

Standardized procedures for radio communication, signaling, and reporting.

- Special Operating Rules

Specific instructions for unique situations like yard operations, switching, or work zone activities.

Detailed Breakdown of GCORE Rules

- General Operating Rules

a. Train Dispatch and Movement

- All train movements must be authorized and coordinated through proper communication channels.
- Conductors and engineers must verify the track and train status before proceeding.
- Movement must adhere to speed restrictions, signaling, and routing instructions.

b. Authority and Certification

- Employees must carry and present proper certification and authority documents.
- Only qualified personnel can operate trains or perform safety-critical tasks.

c. Track and Equipment Inspection

- Conduct pre-departure inspections to ensure equipment safety.
- Report any deficiencies immediately following protocol.

- Safety Rules

a. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Mandatory PPE includes high-visibility clothing, hard hats, gloves, and eye protection as necessary.
- PPE must be worn at all designated locations and during specific tasks.

b. Track Safety

- Always verify track conditions before movement.
- Use track warrants, track bulletins, or other authority to confirm safety.

c. Hazard Recognition

- Be alert for broken rails, obstructions, or unauthorized persons.
- Use spotters or safety devices when necessary.

- Emergency Procedures

a. Emergency Communication

- Immediate reporting of incidents via radio and to designated safety authorities.
- Clear, concise communication following established protocols.

b. Responding to Derailments or Accidents

- Secure the scene, protect lives, and prevent further damage.
- Follow specific procedures for hazardous materials, including containment and notification.

c. Evacuation and Medical Aid

- Evacuate personnel as needed.
- Provide first aid if qualified and safe to do so.

- Communications Protocols

- Use standardized radio codes and phrases to ensure clarity.
- Confirm message receipt and understanding.
- Maintain communication discipline to avoid misunderstandings.

- Special Operating Rules

a. Yard Operations

- Follow designated procedures for switching and coupling.
- Use proper hand signals or radio commands.

b. Work Zones and Track Maintenance

- Obtain proper authority before work.
- Use safety flags, signals, and barriers to protect workers.

Best Practices for Complying with GCORE Rules

- Regular Training: Stay current with rule updates through ongoing training sessions.
- Pre-Trip Planning: Always review the GCORE guidelines relevant to your route and tasks.
- Effective Communication: Use clear, concise language and confirm understanding during all operations.
- Vigilance: Maintain situational awareness, especially in high-risk areas.
- Reporting and Feedback: Promptly report safety concerns or violations to supervisors for continuous improvement.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Challenge 1: Complex Rules Leading to Confusion

Solution: Regular refresher training and quick-reference guides can help clarify rules and procedures.

Challenge 2: Complacency During Routine Tasks

Solution: Maintain a safety-first mindset, even during familiar operations, and encourage peer accountability.

Challenge 3: Emergency Situations

Solution: Familiarize yourself with emergency procedures through drills and simulations to ensure a calm, effective response.

Conclusion

The BNSF GCORE rules are more than just a set of regulations?they are the backbone of safe, reliable, and efficient railway operations. By understanding and diligently applying these rules, employees contribute significantly to the safety culture that BNSF prioritizes. Whether you are a frontline worker or a safety manager, continuous adherence to GCORE protocols ensures that everyone returns home safely at the end of each day while maintaining the integrity of the rail network.

For those involved in BNSF operations, mastering the GCORE rules is an ongoing journey?one that requires vigilance, commitment, and a proactive approach to safety. Remember, safety is a shared responsibility, and adherence to these rules not only protects personnel but also sustains the vital freight services that keep industries and communities moving forward.

QuestionAnswer What are the key components of BNSF GCORE rules for safety compliance? BNSF GCORE rules focus on ensuring safety through proper communication, adherence to safety protocols, equipment inspection, and timely reporting of hazards to maintain a safe working environment. How does BNSF GCORE govern crew responsibilities during operations? BNSF GCORE outlines crew responsibilities such as proper conduct, adherence to safety procedures, effective communication, and accountability to promote operational safety and efficiency. What training is required for employees to understand and implement BNSF GCORE rules? Employees must complete mandatory safety training, including GCORE rule coursework, ongoing refreshers, and assessments to ensure they are knowledgeable about safety protocols and operational standards. How does BNSF GCORE ensure compliance with federal safety regulations? BNSF GCORE incorporates federal safety standards into its policies, regularly audits adherence, and provides ongoing training to ensure all employees comply with regulations such as OSHA and FRA requirements. What are the consequences of violating BNSF GCORE rules? Violations of BNSF GCORE rules can result in disciplinary actions including retraining, suspension, or termination, depending on the severity of the infraction, to uphold safety and operational integrity.

Related keywords: BNSF GCORE, GCORE rules, BNSF safety protocols, GCORE compliance, BNSF safety standards, GCORE procedures, BNSF operational guidelines, GCORE regulation, BNSF safety training, GCORE documentation

bnsf chicago subdivision

BNSF Chicago Subdivision is a vital rail corridor that plays a crucial role in freight transportation across the Midwest and beyond. As one of the key subdivisions of the BNSF Railway, it connects major hubs, facilitates efficient cargo movement, and supports economic growth in the region. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the history, route, significance, and operational aspects of the BNSF Chicago Subdivision, providing valuable insights for rail enthusiasts, industry stakeholders, and travelers alike.

Overview of the BNSF Chicago Subdivision

What is the BNSF Chicago Subdivision?

The BNSF Chicago Subdivision is a major rail line operated by BNSF Railway, one of North America?s largest freight rail networks. This subdivision extends through Illinois and serves as a critical link between the Midwest and other parts of the country. It primarily handles freight traffic, including intermodal containers, bulk commodities, and automotive shipments.

Historical Background

The Chicago Subdivision's roots trace back to the historic Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad (CB&Q), which was integrated into the BNSF network following the railroad mergers of the late 20th century. The route's strategic importance has grown over decades, adapting to the evolving logistics landscape and increasing freight demands.

Route and Geography

Geographic Scope

The BNSF Chicago Subdivision spans approximately 150 miles, traversing key urban and suburban areas. Starting from Chicago, the line moves westward through suburbs and rural regions, connecting with other significant BNSF lines and freight hubs.

Major Interchanges and Connections

The subdivision intersects with several other lines and railroads, including:

- Union Pacific Railroad
- Canadian National Railway

- CSX Transportation
- Metra commuter lines

These connections facilitate seamless freight transfer and enhance regional transportation efficiency.

Notable Landmarks Along the Route

Key landmarks include:

- Downtown Chicago freight yards
- Proximity to major industrial zones
- Intermodal terminals such as the BNSF Logistics Park Chicago

Operational Significance

Freight Traffic and Types

The Chicago Subdivision handles diverse freight types, including:

- Intermodal containers ? critical for global supply chains
- Bulk commodities ? such as coal, grain, and minerals
- Automotive shipments ? moving vehicles and parts
- General freight ? including manufactured goods

Role in the National Supply Chain

As a major artery, the BNSF Chicago Subdivision supports:

- Efficient movement of goods to and from the Port of Chicago
- Connectivity between southern and northern markets
- Relief for congested highways by providing freight alternatives

Operational Challenges and Improvements

The line faces challenges such as:

- Congestion during peak hours
- Track maintenance and upgrades
- Coordination with passenger services like Metra

To address these, BNSF invests in infrastructure enhancements, signal modernization, and scheduling optimizations.

Technological Innovations and Safety

Modern Signaling and Traffic Control

The Chicago Subdivision utilizes advanced signaling systems, including Positive Train Control (PTC), to increase safety and efficiency. PTC helps prevent collisions and over-speed derailments, particularly in busy urban areas.

Automation and Maintenance

BNSF employs automated track inspection vehicles and predictive maintenance technologies to ensure the line remains in optimal condition, reducing delays and enhancing safety.

Safety Measures and Protocols

Safety is paramount on the Chicago Subdivision. BNSF enforces strict protocols, including:

- Regular crew training
- Emergency response planning
- Community outreach programs

Economic Impact and Community Involvement

Economic Contributions

The Chicago Subdivision is instrumental in supporting regional economies by:

- Creating jobs directly related to rail operations and indirect employment in logistics, manufacturing, and retail sectors
- Facilitating export and import activities
- Supporting urban development and infrastructure projects

Community Engagement

BNSF actively participates in local community initiatives, including:

- Environmental sustainability programs
- Rail safety education
- Partnerships with local governments and organizations

Future Developments and Expansion Plans

Upgrades and Infrastructure Projects

BNSF continues to invest in the Chicago Subdivision through:

- Track widening and reinforcement
- Station upgrades
- Enhanced signaling and communication systems

Potential Expansion and Capacity Enhancements

Future plans may include:

- Adding new sidings and passing tracks to improve traffic flow
- Implementing more automation for scheduling and dispatching
- Collaborating with regional planners to accommodate growing freight demands

How to Access and Use the BNSF Chicago Subdivision

For Freight Clients

Businesses seeking to ship or receive goods via the Chicago Subdivision should coordinate with BNSF's customer service. The company offers comprehensive logistics solutions, including:

- Container shipping
- Bulk freight handling
- Automotive logistics

For Rail Enthusiasts and Visitors

While primarily a freight line, railfans can observe activity in designated areas around Chicago?s freight yards and intermodal terminals. Always prioritize safety and adhere to local guidelines when viewing trains.

Travel Tips and Safety

- Never trespass on active tracks
- Use designated crossings and observe warning signals
- Stay informed about train schedules if visiting rail viewing sites

Conclusion

The **BNSF Chicago Subdivision** is a cornerstone of freight transportation in the United States, linking the bustling city of Chicago with the broader Midwest and national markets. Its strategic location, modern infrastructure, and operational efficiency make it an essential component of the nation?s supply chain. As BNSF continues to innovate and expand, the Chicago Subdivision will remain vital in supporting economic growth, regional development, and the seamless movement of goods across North America. Whether you are a logistics professional, a rail enthusiast, or a community stakeholder, understanding the significance of this line underscores its importance in our interconnected economy.

BNSF Chicago Subdivision: An In-Depth Guide to One of the Heartbeats of North American Rail Transportation

The BNSF Chicago Subdivision stands as a vital artery within the vast network of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, serving as a critical connector point in the Midwest's freight transportation landscape. This subdivision not only facilitates the movement of goods across states but also plays a crucial role in the economic vitality of Chicago and the surrounding regions. Whether you're a rail enthusiast, a transportation professional, or simply curious about how freight moves across North America, understanding the intricacies of the BNSF Chicago Subdivision offers valuable insights into the dynamic world of freight railroading.

What is the BNSF Chicago Subdivision?

The BNSF Chicago Subdivision is a significant segment of the BNSF Railway's extensive network, primarily focused on freight movement within the Chicago area and connecting to key corridors across the United States. The subdivision spans a strategic route that links major hubs, industrial zones, and ports, making it a backbone for commerce in the Midwest.

Key Features:

- Geographic Scope: Extends from the northern suburbs of Chicago to the southern parts of the city and beyond.
- Connections: Intersects with other major subdivisions and railroads, including Norfolk Southern, CSX, Union Pacific, and Canadian National.
- Traffic Types: Handles a mixture of intermodal containers, bulk commodities, automotive cars, and general freight.

Historical Background and Development

The Chicago area has long been a nexus for rail transportation, dating back to the 19th century. The BNSF Chicago Subdivision, in particular, evolved from the merger and absorption of various regional lines over the decades.

Origins:

- Originally part of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad (CB&Q).
- Became a key component in the Burlington Northern Railroad's network.
- The BNSF Railway was formed in 1995 through the merger of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway, consolidating the Chicago Subdivision into its current configuration.

Modernization:

- Over the years, significant upgrades have been made, including track improvements, signaling systems, and grade separation projects.
- The subdivision has adapted to handle increasing intermodal traffic, requiring infrastructure enhancements like expanded yards and new facilities.

Physical Layout and Infrastructure

Understanding the physical layout of the BNSF Chicago Subdivision is essential to grasp its operational significance.

Route Characteristics:

- Track Configuration: Typically double-tracked, allowing for high-frequency traffic and

bidirectional movement.

- Major Intersections: Connects with other subdivisions such as the Aurora, Elwood, and Joliet Subdivisions.
- Yards and Terminals: Includes major facilities like the Chicago Yard, BNSF's intermodal terminal, and various local switching yards.

Key Infrastructure Elements:

- Bridges and Tunnels: Several bridges cross the Chicago River and other waterways; tunnels are rare but present in some areas.
- Signaling and Control: Modernized signaling systems, including centralized traffic control (CTC), enable efficient movement and safety.
- Speed Limits: Vary based on track condition and traffic volume but generally range from 40 to 50 mph for freight.

Types of Traffic and Operations

The BNSF Chicago Subdivision supports a wide array of freight movements, reflecting Chicago's role as a logistics hub.

Major Traffic Types:

- Intermodal Containers: Moving between ports, inland terminals, and distribution centers.
- Bulk Commodities: Coal, grain, chemicals, and minerals.
- Automotive Freight: New vehicles and automotive parts.
- General Freight: Various manufactured goods, machinery, and consumer products.

Typical Operations:

- Through Trains: Long-distance freights passing through Chicago en route to other parts of the country.
- Local Switching: Serving local industries, warehouses, and distribution centers within and around Chicago.
- Intermodal Drayage: Coordinated with trucking companies for last-mile delivery.

Importance to the Regional Economy

The Chicago Subdivision is more than a rail corridor; it?s a vital economic engine.

Economic Impact:

- Facilitates over millions of tons of freight annually.
- Supports thousands of jobs in logistics, manufacturing, and related sectors.
- Enables efficient supply chain operations, reducing transportation costs.

Connection to Ports:

- Links to major ports such as the Port of Chicago.
- Supports international trade by connecting maritime shipments to inland distribution networks.

Challenges and Modern Developments

Despite its significance, the BNSF Chicago Subdivision faces various challenges and ongoing projects aimed at maintaining and enhancing its capacity.

Challenges:

- Congestion: High traffic volumes lead to delays and congestion, especially during peak hours.
- Infrastructure Aging: Some sections require upgrades to meet safety and efficiency standards.
- Coordination: Managing traffic flow with neighboring railroads and across multiple jurisdictions.

Recent and Upcoming Projects:

- Track Expansion: Adding additional tracks in critical bottleneck areas.
- Signal Upgrades: Transitioning to positive train control (PTC) for safety.
- Station and Facility Improvements: Modernizing intermodal terminals and yards.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead, the BNSF Chicago Subdivision is poised for continued growth driven by freight demand and technological advancements.

Innovations:

- Adoption of automated switching systems.

- Implementation of real-time tracking and predictive maintenance.
- Expansion of intermodal capacity with new terminals and facilities.

Strategic Significance:

- As supply chains become more globalized, the Chicago Subdivision's role will only grow in importance.
- Investments in infrastructure will aim to optimize flow, reduce delays, and support sustainable rail operations.

Conclusion

The BNSF Chicago Subdivision stands as a cornerstone of North American freight railroading, embodying the complex interplay of history, infrastructure, and economic importance. Its ongoing evolution reflects the broader trends in transportation, emphasizing efficiency, safety, and adaptability. Whether you are a railfan marveling at the bustling activity or a logistics professional relying on its connectivity, understanding this subdivision provides a window into the vital freight arteries that keep America's economy moving forward.

Additional Resources:

- BNSF Railway Official Website
- Chicago Area Rail Infrastructure Reports
- North American Rail Traffic Data Platforms
- Local historical societies and railfan communities for detailed maps and photos

QuestionAnswer What is the significance of the BNSF Chicago Subdivision in freight transportation? The BNSF Chicago Subdivision is a critical rail corridor that facilitates the movement of freight across the Midwest, connecting major hubs and supporting the regional economy. How does the BNSF Chicago Subdivision impact local communities? It provides essential freight services that support local industries and employment, while also prompting discussions on safety and noise mitigation near residential areas. Are there any recent upgrades or improvements to the BNSF Chicago Subdivision? Yes, recent projects have focused on track upgrades, signaling enhancements, and infrastructure improvements to increase capacity, safety, and efficiency. What types of trains predominantly operate on the BNSF Chicago Subdivision? The subdivision primarily sees freight trains carrying commodities like coal, agricultural products, intermodal containers, and manufacturing goods. How does the BNSF Chicago Subdivision connect with other major rail lines? It interfaces with several other key railroads and subdivisions, including Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific, and CSX, forming a vital network for freight movement nationwide. Are there any ongoing

construction projects on the BNSF Chicago Subdivision? Yes, ongoing projects include track modernization, bridge repairs, and signal system upgrades aimed at improving safety and operational capacity. What role does the BNSF Chicago Subdivision play in intermodal transportation? It serves as a major route for intermodal trains, helping to move containers efficiently between ports, warehouses, and manufacturing centers in the region. How has the BNSF Chicago Subdivision adapted to increased freight demand? The subdivision has seen capacity expansions, scheduling optimizations, and technological improvements to handle higher traffic volumes effectively. What are the future plans for the BNSF Chicago Subdivision? Future plans include further infrastructure investments, technology upgrades for automation, and initiatives aimed at enhancing safety and environmental sustainability.

Related keywords: BNSF Railway, Chicago rail lines, freight transportation, Chicago subdivision map, BNSF trains, rail network Chicago, BNSF logistics, rail freight Chicago, BNSF track details, Chicago rail infrastructure

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