CHAPTER 13
CLEARANCES

13-1. Measurement.

Vertical clearance shall be measured vertically from the top surface of the rail. Side clearance shall be measured horizontally from the centerline of the track.

13-2. Clearance requirements, tangent track.

Clearances for tangent track shall not be less than those listed in table 13-1 and shown in figure 13-1.

Table 13-1. Clearance Requirements for Tangent Track

Obstruction	Required Clearance
Vertical Clearances	
Overhead wires: open supply, arc wires, service drops	
0 to 750 volts	27 feet
750 to 15,000 volts	28 feet
Exceeding 15,000 volts	30 feet
Other overhead wires	27 feet
Building entrances (including engine-houses)	18 feet
Overhead bridges	22 feet
Other overhead obstructions	22 feet
Side Clearances	
Buildings	8 feet-6 inches
Buildings without platforms (delivery required)	8 feet
Platforms:	
Freight platforms up to 4 feet maximum height	6 feet-2 inches
Refrigerator car platforms up to 3 feet-3 inches high	6 feet-2 inches
Refrigerator car platforms 3 feet-3 inch to 4 feet high	8 feet
Low platforms (less than 8 inches high)	5 feet
Engine-house entrances	6 feet-6 inches
Building entrances (other than engine-houses)	8 feet
Canopies over platforms (canopy height 16 feet or less)	8 feet
Fences, retaining walls, utility poles, and other obstructions	8 feet-6 inches
Bridges	8 feet
Signs	8 feet
All loose, palliated, and stacked materials	8 feet
Parked vehicles	8 feet

Note: In curves side clearances shall be increased 1-1/2 (1.50) inches for each degree of curvature.

Table 13-1. Clearance requirements for tangent track.

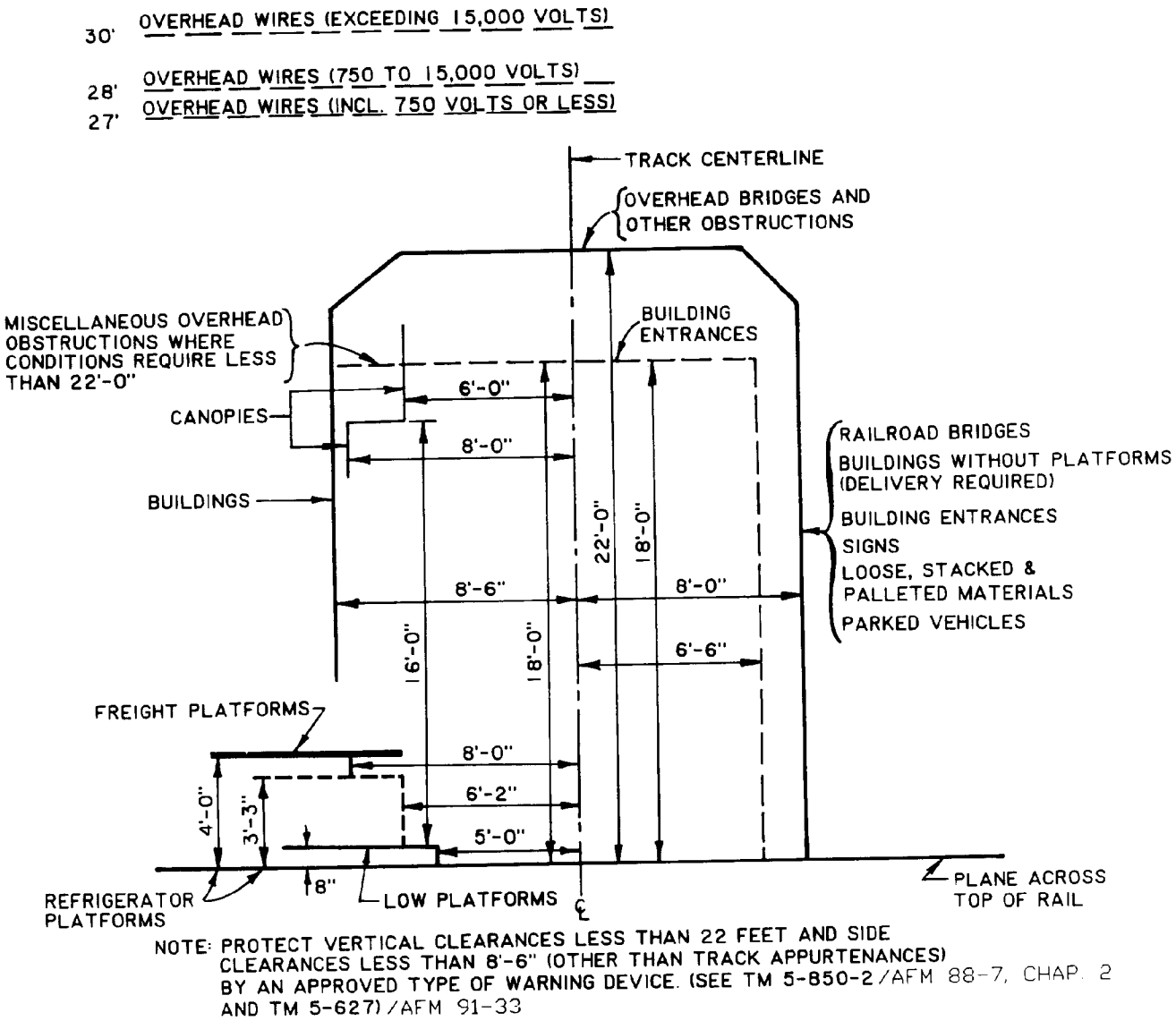

Figure 13-1. Minimum clearances for tangent track.

13-3 Clearance requirements, curved track.

a. For *each* degree of curvature, side clearances shall be increased 1½ (1.50) inches over that required in table 13-1 and figure 13-1.

b. When an obstruction is located adjacent to tangent track but the track is curved within 80 feet of the obstruction, the side clearances shall be increased by the following amounts:

Distance from Obstruction to Curved Track feet	*Increase per Degree of Curvature inches*
0–20	1½ (1.50)
21–40	1⅛ (1.125)
41–60	¾ (0.75)
61–80	⅜ (0.375)

13-4. Track centers.

The minimum spacing between the centerlines of adjacent tracks shall be maintained as follows:

Type of Tracks	*Minimum Center-to-Center Distance*
Yard, loading, and storage tracks	13 feet
Yard track parallel to a main or running track	15 feet
Passing track	15 feet

13-5. Changes to clearances.

Whenever changes in alinement or elevation are made, clearances shall be checked for compliance with the criteria given in this chapter. This is especially important in the vicinity of buildings, bridges, overhead structures, platforms, and tunnels.