

The Portable Track Loading Fixture (PTLF)

The Portable Track Loading Fixture (PTLF) is an essential piece of track inspection equipment developed based on the need from class 1 railroads. This new and unique inspection equipment is used to verify track integrity and rail gauge under simulated loads, allowing for testing in critical locations such as turnouts that were previously difficult or impossible to check.

Using this tool, the PTLF applies up to 4,000 lbs of lateral force on the track to simulate train traffic. This becomes a vital measurement for track inspectors to ensure the rail holds a gauge under a simulated load. Its durable yet reduced-weight aluminum design makes it easily portable at just 30 lbs.

The PTLF tests corrective action, therefore, ensure track safety hazards are addressed. Within rail yards, turnouts are a highly visible track component that is the cause of many yard derailments. With the PTLF being used as a part of routine inspection, rail track testing and maintenance can be conducted on any part of the track, even in otherwise inaccessible areas.

The Portable Track Loading Fixture comes supplied with a carrying strap, and readings can be gathered in less than 1 minute of deploying this piece of track inspection equipment. It also complies with FRA CFR 213 requirements.

