Rail Yard Operations

**Duration:** 60 mins  |  **Level:** Intermediate  |  **Pass mark:** 80%

**Course Description:**
Receiving and unloading coal are rail yard operations that are commonly performed by coal handlers. To help coal handlers develop the knowledge and skills necessary to work safely with rail yard equipment, this course covers basic rail yard equipment, including tracks, switches, coal cars, and locomotives. It also describes how the braking system on a coal car generally operates, emphasizes the safe working practices associated with mounting and dismounting coal cars, and covers effective communication among members of a rail yard crew.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Describe the general function of the following equipment in a rail yard: tracks, switches, frogs, turnouts, coal cars, and locomotives
- List some of the jobs that coal handlers generally perform in a rail yard
- Describe the parts of a track and describe how to inspect track components
- Describe the procedure for operating a switch
- Explain the functions of a spring switch and a derail
- Describe the basic parts of a coal car
- Name the two types of brakes used on coal cars, and explain how they generally work
- Describe the basic parts of a locomotive
- List the parts of a typical air brake system and describe their functions
- Describe how to safely couple and uncouple air brake hoses
- Describe what a coupler is and explain how coal cars are generally coupled and uncoupled
- Describe a procedure for isolating a damaged coal car
- Explain how to safely mount and dismount a coal car
- Describe ways that coal handlers communicate with each other in a rail yard
- Describe a procedure for isolating a damaged coal car