Operating A Switching Layout
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Prototype Rails 2013

Time and Task HO Scale

Task	Time to allow during model ops.
Engine travels 5 feet on layout at 5mph	1 minute
Engine travels 5 feet on layout at 20mph	15 seconds
Scale (1/87) conductor walks 9 car lengths (5 actual feet on layout) at 3mph	1 minute, 40 seconds
Replace one empty with one load	**15 minutes**
Drop one load or pick up one empty	**7 minutes**
Set fusee at street crossing	5 minutes
Unlock industry gate and meet with customer representative.	5 minutes
Re-lock gate before leaving industry	1 minute
Application and release brake test, 2 or 3 cars	2 minutes
Application and release brake test for an entire 10 or 15 car train	5 minutes
Unlock and throw switch	1 minute
Release hand brakes on car to be pulled	1 minute per car
Set hand brakes on cars just spotted	1 minute per car
Lace up air hoses	30 seconds per car

With the exception of the speed/distance items, I have compressed the time period for some of these tasks slightly for model use. Some may take longer on the prototype.

man walks 3 mph
switching maximum 5 mph
moving cars   15 mph
3 step rule