

Glossary of terms used in these pages

[English-Spanish](#) [Spanish-English](#)

Spanish, like English, is not a single homogeneous language. Different words can be used in different places to express the identical concept. The same word can have very different meanings in different countries. For instance, the word hacienda in Argentina (in the context of railways) means livestock; however, its usual meaning in Mexico is something like stately home. Technical terms may be specific to individual railways.

Where the word is specific, but not necessarily uniquely, to a country or railway there is an abbreviation indicating the source of the word.

English / Spanish

COUPLINGS

automatic coupling = el enganche automático (RFIRT) (knuckle implied)

buckeye or MCB coupler = el acoplador (tipo) puño

buffer = el paragolpe = el tope (Uru.)

chopper coupling = el acoplador (tipo) hacha

coupling = el acople

coupling hook = el gancho (between buffers on buffer beam)

knuckle coupling = el acoplador (tipo) puño = el ganche mandíbula = la mandíbula (Uru.)

link and pin coupling = el acoplador (tipo) anillo y perno = el enganche a cadena (Arg.)

rotating coupling = el acoplador giratorio (for tippler wagons)

screw coupling = el tornillo (Uru.) (between buffers on buffer beam) = el enganche a rosca (Arg.)

three link coupling = la cadena a eslabón

LINES & ROUTES

additional line = la vía auxiliadora (RFIRT) (a line which is not a running line) = la vía auxiliar (RFIRT)

block section = sección de bloqueo

construction = la construcción (this may be used to describe both the process of constructing and the thing which has been constructed)

construction works = las obras

crossover = la interconexión (invented for these pages)

crossing place = el apartadero (RFIRT) (On this railway where there are two running lines: the main line is bi-directional; the secondary running line may be bi-directional)

curve = la curva

descent = la bajada

distance (in kilometres) = el kilometraje

down line = la vía descendente, (defined as direction of decreasing mileage)

gradient = la pendiente

level crossing = el paso a nivel

main line = la vía primera (Arg + RFIRT) = la vía principal (Arg +RFIRT) (the line which joins the stations and passes through them; the running of the trains on it is governed by rules and signals)

network (of routes) = la red, eg. la Red Norte (Chile)

permanent way = la vía permanente

radius = el radio

railway = el ferrocarril = la vía férrea

running line = la vía de tráfico (RFIRT)

second (running) line = la vía segunda (RFIRT) (at stations and crossing places)

section = el tramo (Chile)

shunting yard = patio = playa de maniobras (Arg.)

siding = el desvío (an additional line used for shunting or the parking of vehicles, exceptionally it may be used for the crossing of trains; it may be of such a length that it would be considered a branch line - the airfield siding at Puerto Madryn was 4km long and there was one in the north of Argentina no less than 101 km long!)

single track = la vía sencilla

subsidiary line = la vía auxiliadora (RFIRT)

third (running) line (not siding) = la vía tercera (at stations and crossing places)

triangle, or wye = triángulo

up line = la vía ascendente, (defined as direction of increasing mileage)

wye, or triangle = triángulo

LOCOMOTIVE DEPOT

engine shed = el depósito = el galpón de máquinas = la casa de máquinas (Chile)

round house = la casa redonda = la remesa

shed = el galpón

turntable = la giratoria = la mesa giratoria = la placa giratoria = la plataforma giratoria = el puente giratorio = la tournamesa (Chile)

water crane = la punta de agua = la toma de agua = la grúa de agua

water stand = el agua (Cent. Am.) (feminine gender)

water tank = el agua (Cent. Am.) (feminine gender) = el tanque de agua

workshops = los talleres (Arg.) = la maestranza (Chile)

LOCOMOTIVES

assisting engine = la locomotora auxiliadora (RFIRT) (whether located between the train engine and the train or at the rear pushing) = la locomotora auxilio (RFIRT)

boiler pressure = la presión de caldera (200 psi = 14.1 kg/mm²)

brake, air = el freno Westinghouse (Arg.) = el freno al aire comprimido

brake shoe = la zapata de freno

brake, vacuum = el freno al vacío

bunker = el pañol (for coal or wood; usually in a ship) = el tanque de combustible (fuel oil) = el tender (sometimes, by extension from separate tender)

cab = la casilla

carrying wheel = la rueda portador (not bogie wheel)

cattle guard = el miriñaque (Arg + Chile) (literally crinoline!)

chassis = la viga

coal = el carbon

coupled wheel = la rueda acoplada

cow catcher = el miriñaque (Arg + Chile)

cylinders = los cilindros

diesel fuel = el aceite diesel (Cent. Am.)

driving wheel = la rueda acoplada = la rueda propulsora

engine = la locomotora = la máquina

exploratory engine = la locomotora exploradora (RFIRT) a light engine sent out into an occupied section to look for a train, or a rake of wagons, whose whereabouts is unknown)

firebox = el fogón = la caja de fuego

footplate = el estribo

head light (strobe) = la baliza

headlamp = el reflector

horsepower = caballo vapor

light engine = la locomotora sola (may be more than one engine coupled together and may include one, or more, brake vans attached)

locomotive jack = el gato de locomotora (RFIRT) (probably a traversing screw jack of perhaps 15 tons capacity)

mainframe = el bastidor = la viga

pilot (USA) = el miriñaque (Arg + Chile) (literally crinoline!)

putting steam loco into reverse to brake the train = el contravapor

running plate = el estribo

safety valve = la válvula de seguridad (invented for these pages)

sand box = el arenero = el cajón de arena

smoke box = la caja de humo / humos = el humero

snow plough = la reja quitanieves

steam release valve = el robinete

superheater = recalentador (literally 're-heater')

superheating = sobrecalentación (Arg.)

tractive effort/force = fuerza de tracción

train engine = la locomotora titular (RFIRT) (located at the very front of the train, in front of any assisting engine)

traversing jack = el gato para mover al lado = el gato trasladador (invented for these pages)

wheel arrangement = la esquema de ruedas = el rodado = el rodaje

whistle = el pito

works' number = el número de fábrica

MISCELLANEOUS

Enginemens' union (ASLEF equivalent) = la Fraternidad (Arg)

assets = los bienes (RFIRT)

in bulk (loose, not in containers) = a granel

colliery arch = la viga castillo (RFIRT)

colony = la colonia (Arg., eg. Colonia Sarmiento; settlement in unoccupied territory established by, or with consent of, the government)

company = la empresa, la compañía

concession (eg. to operate a railway) = la concesión

concrete = el hormigón

dam = el dique

decree (of government) = el decreto (Arg.)

design = el plano

district, (suburb, neighbourhood (USA)) = el barrio

electric battery = la batería (RFIRT) = la pila (Arg)

engineering work = la obra de arte (e.g. bridge)

event = la novedad (RFIRT)
fare = el pasaje
first aid box = el botiquín
mine **gallery** or tunnel = la galería
gas producer = el hizagas
incident = la novedad (RFIRT)
livestock = el ganado (Arg.) = la hacienda (Arg.)
law = la ley
lorry = el camión
masonry = la mampostería
mineral = el mineral
Ministry of Public Works = Ministerio de Obras Publicas (Arg.)
occurrence = la novedad (RFIRT)
outcrop (of rock or ore) = el afloramiento
packaging = el embalaje
padlock = el candado
petrol = la bencina (Chile) = la nafta (Arg.)
plan (ie map) = el plano
road motor coach service = la línea automotora Pullman (FC Central del Chubut, Arg.)
mine **shaft** = el pique, or if inclined = la chimenea inclinada
stores = los materiales
tap = la canilla
third party = el tercero
ticket (for pasenger) = el boleto (Arg.)
ton/tonne (weight) = tonelada; long ton = tonelada inglesa, short ton = tonelada de los EEUU.mine **tunnel** or gallery = la galería
ventilation shaft or tunnel for mine = el chiflón
wool = la lana
works tram = la zorra (tramway)
wrought iron = el hierro forjado

OPERATION (OF TRAINS)

bad visibility = la mala visibilidad (RFIRT) (defined as visibility of less than 200 metres)
ballast train = el tren de trabajo
banked (train) = la doble tracción
breakdown train = el tren de auxilio
delay = el retraso
diagrammed service = el servicio diagramado (RFIRT) (that is, one operating to the timetable contained within the current working timetable)
double headed = la doble tracción
fly shunting = la maniobra volante (RFIRT) (that is, when a locomotive pulling a rake of wagons is uncoupled from them while in motion and passes through facing points in a different direction to that of the following wagons)
interchange (of passengers at a junction) = la combinación
mist = la neblina (defined as visibility of less than 200 metres)
rough shunt = la maniobra brusca

running-over = el arrollamiento (of livestock or person)

shunting = las maniobras

speed restriction = la precaución (Arg + RFIRT)

train control office = el Movimiento (more fully: la Oficina de Movimiento Seccional) = oficina de control de trenes

passenger train conveying vehicles for several different destinations or branch lines = el tren combinación

hurricane force **winds** = el viento huracanado (Arg., of great importance to train operation in Patagonia!)

walking pace = a paso de hombre

OPERATION (COMMERCIAL / STAFF)

bale (of wool) = el bulto

bill of lading = la carta de porte

charge (for conveying freight) = el flete

expenses = los gastos

freightage = el flete

improvised service = el servicio programado (RFIRT) (that is, one operating to suit the exigencies of traffic through lack of a current working time table)

income = el producido

journey = el viaje

livestock = la hacienda (Arg)

locum = el reemplazante (RFIRT) (person undertaking those duties at the particular time)

on duty = de turno (RFIRT) = en servicio (RFIRT) (when working a shift system)

packet = la encomienda

parcel = la encomienda

ship or vessel = el buque

shipping line = la compañía naviera

shipping service = la vía marítima

shunter = el cambista

timetable = el horario (RFIRT) (that part of the working time table which specifies the class, direction, number and running of the trains)

tonne (or ton according to context) = la tonelada

way bill = la foja de ruta (RFIRT)

weighing machine = la báscula

working timetable = el itinerario de trenes (RFIRT) (a printed document which contains the timetable, together with information concerning the running and dealing with trains)

POINTS/SWITCHES

(point) **blade** = la aguja

catch point = la trampa

clearance post or point = la estaca del cambio (RFIRT) (indicating the point beyond which vehicles on two converging lines will foul each other) = la estaca de libranza (RFIRT)

crossing nose, vee or frog = la encrucijada

facing points = el cambio de punta (RFIRT)

hand points = el cambio a mano (RFIRT)

point lock at in-section siding operated by train staff = la cerradura de gaveta

points with a facing point lock = las agujas de seguridad

points without a facing point lock = las agujas simples

position indicator for points = el indicador de cambio

sprung points = el cambio a resorte (this does not necessarily involve the use of springs, but more usually by a hand lever weighted to self park in one position only, unlike the usual arrangement where it will self park in either position)

trailing points = el cambio de talón (RFIRT)

RAILWAY OR ROUTE TITLES

EFEA = Empresa Ferrocarriles del Estado Argentina = Argentine State Railways Company, ie the official name for the nationalised railway network after 1948. Later the less official term 'Ferrocarriles Argentinos' was popularly used.

FCAF = Ferrocarril Austral Fueguino = lit. Southern Fueguinian Railway, ie. the modern 50cm tourist line at Ushuaia.

FCCC = Ferrocarril Central del Chubut. NB In Spanish this should really be abbreviated 'FCCCh' as 'Ch' counts as a separate single letter in Spanish. However the railway management always used the English abbreviation FCCC. Nota bene : La gerencia del 'FCCCH' usaba la abreviatura FCCC en sus escritos y para identificación sobre los vagones y locomotoras. La voz galesa o inglesa tiene la cuarta letra del abecedario como la 'd' no la 'ch' como castellano en aquel tiempo.

FCE = Ferrocarril del Estado, Argentina, y Chile también. = State Railways, in both Argentina and Chile.

FCGR = Ferrocarril General Roca, ie. the title given in 1948 to the division of the EFEA incorporating the former FC Sud and the former FCE lines to Bariloche, Esquel and Coronel Sosa.

FCP = Ferrocarril Patagónico = Patagonian Railway(s), ie the two isolated broad gauge lines and the ex FCCC from 1948 until their takeover by the FC General Roca a few years later.

FCPV = Ferrocarril de Península Valdés = Peninsula Valdes railway, ie. the salt line to Pto. Piramides.

FCS = Ferrocarril Sud = Southern Railway, or more formally in English the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway Company.

RCR-CS = Ramal Comodoro Rivadavia a Colonia Sarmiento = term used here for the Comodoro Rivadavia - Sarmiento broad gauge line.

RFIEP = Ramal Ferro Industrial Eva Perón = Eva Peron Industrial Railway Line. The original name for the Rio Turbio coal line until President Peron's fall from office in the mid 1950s. El nombre original del RFIRT (abajo).

RFIRT = Ramal Ferro Industrial Río Turbio = Rio Turbio Industrial Railway Line.

RIJ-E = Ramal de Ingeniero Jacobacci a Esquel

RPD-CLH = Ramal Puerto Deseado a Colonia Las Heras

RSA-SCB = Ramal Viedma a San Antonio Oeste y San Carlos de Bariloche

ROLLING STOCK (PARTS OF VEHICLES)

archbar truck or diamond frame bogie = el boguie de forma diamante

axlebox = la caja de lubricación = la caja para punta de eje = la caja de ejes

berth (bed in sleeping coach) = la litera = la cama (Arg.)

birdcage roof = el techo jaulón (invented for the purposes of these pages)

bogie/truck = el boguie (it is also often spelt 'bogie')

braked axle = el eje frenado
brake hose = la manga de freno
brake rigging = la timonería de freno (excludes brake shoes)
buffer beam = el montaje acoplador
buffer front face = el platillo
clerestory roof = el techo con claraboya
diamond frame bogie or archbar truck = el boguie de forma diamante
end balcony of coach? = la platina
fall plate? = la platina
monitor roof = el techo catedral (invented for the purposes of these pages)
roller bearing = el rodamiento
sleeping compartment = el compartimiento or el camarote
spare part = el repuesto
tail lamp of train = la señal de cola
truck/bogie = el boguie (it is also often spelt 'bogie')
washing compartment = el lavatorio
WC compartment = la letrina
wheel = la rueda
wheel flange? = la ceja = la pestaña
wheel tread = la huella

ROLLING STOCK (VEHICLES)

baggage car = el furgón de equipajes
box car (USA) or covered van = vagón cubierto
box van = el furgón
brake van = el furgón = el furgón (RFIRT - sole meaning) = el furgón de cola (FC Patagónico) = el furgón de freno
container = el contenedor
final vehicle = el colero (RFIRT) (of block train; painted distinctively, red and white vertical bands and carrying the appropriate end-of-train signals)
flat wagon = el carro plano (Chile) = vagón plataforma (Arg.)
flat wagon for containers = la chata contenedor (modern containers)
flat wagon with no or very low sides = la plataforma
guard's compartment = el furgón (in a passenger coach)
high-sided open wagon = vagón cajón
hopper wagon = la tolva
inspection saloon = el coche reservado (locomotive hauled)
livestock wagon = el vagón-jaula = el vagón hacienda (Arg.)
loading gauge = el gálibo (RFIRT) (dimensions thereof)
low-sided open wagon = vagón medio-cajón
luggage compartment = compartimiento para equipajes = also 'el furgón' in Arg. when no special furgón vehicle is in the train
mine tub = el vagon (Mex.) (no accent)
motor trolley = la zorra (RFIRT) (usually; which can readily be removed from the track by its own crew)
officers' saloon = el coche reservado (locomotive hauled)
parcels van = furgón de equipajes; but in Arg. vagón de equipajes = higher quality

parcels van with vacuum brake, passenger bogies/trucks and steam heating pipe.

railcar = el bus carril (Chile) = el ferrobús (Bol.) = el coche motor (Arg.)

railcar, small = el auto de vía

rake (of wagons) = el corte

road-rail vehicle = el satélite (RFIRT)

rolling stock = el material rodante

self propelled insect vehicle = el auto de vía (like a Wyckham or Fairmont trolley)

sleeping car = el coche dormitorio

tipper wagon = el vagón volcador

track bicycle = el velocípedo

van = el cubierto (RFIRT) = el furgón

wagon = el carro (Mex) = el vagón (Arg)

SIGNALS

Note that terms marked * all relate to traditional British signalling practice.

advanced (starting) signal* = la señal de avanzada

back light of signal = **la contraluz**

block section* = la sección block

burner, of oil or acetylene lamp = el mechero

calling-on signal* = la señal de llamada

cane = la caña (for attaching wires of portable telephone to overhead wires of line side telephone)

colour light signal = la señal luminosa

detonator = el pertardo

distant signal* = la señal de distancia

dwarf signal* = la señal enana

engine horn (sound) = la bocina

engine whistle (sound) = el silbato

fixed signal* = la señal fija

fixed distant in off position = el disco chico (RFIRT) (= literally 'small disc'; small disc placed below a disco de aproximación signal to indicate that the train need not stop at the entrance points to a stations as required by the disco de aproximación signal)

fixed distant in on position = el disco de aproximación (RFIRT) (= literally 'approach disc'; fixed signal indicating that the train must stop at the entrance points to the station unless otherwise given a signal at that location)

fixed stop signal = el cuadro absoluto (RFIRT) (= literally 'absolute square'; located at entrance to station (home = grande) or at exit from siding (starting = chico))

flag (for signalling) = la banderita

fog signal = el pertardo

fog signalman = el petardero

ground frame = el marco de palancas

hand bell = la campanilla

hand lamp = el farol = el farol de mano

home signal* = la señal de entrada

instruction board = el tablero

(locomotive) **bell** = la campana

(man's) **arm** = el brazo

signal **lever collar** (to remind signalman not to clear signal as it is protecting a train = el cuello de hierro

el **mechero** = burner, of oil lamp

movable signal = la señal movable

(mouth) **whistle** = el pito

pole = el palo (numbered from 1 each kilometre and used to make mileage location more precise)

repeater signal* = el repetidor

semaphore signal = el semáforo

shunt to siding signal* = la señal de entrada a desvío

shunting signal* = la señal de maniobra

(signal) **arm*** = el brazo

signal box/cabin/tower = el cabín (Arg) = la cabina (Arg) = la caseta = la casilla (de señales) (alternative nomenclatures; the particular form used will depend on the particular pre-nationalization railway on which it is / was located)

signal lamp = el farol de señal

signal lever = la palanca

signalman = el señalero

signal post = el mástil

staff, ie. for single line working = el bastón

starting signal* = la señal de salida

tail lamp of train = la señal de cola

Line clear = vía libre, on RFIRT elevated to 'Vía Libre' system of permissive block working

wrong road working signal* = la señal que autoriza a correr por vía contraria

STAFF/PERSONNEL

blacksmith = el herrero

brakeman = el guardafreno

conductor = el práctico (literally the ship's pilot; ie. the person who knows the road and advises the engine driver who doesn't)

conductor = el conductor (RFIRT) (the person who is in charge of the running of a train, he is generally the same person as the engine driver)

conductor (USA) = el conductor (Cent. Am.)

crew = la dotación

crossing keeper = el guardabarrera

employee = el agente

engine driver = el maquinista

engineer (USA) = el maquinista

engineer (professional) = el ingeniero

foreman = el capataz

guard = el guardatrén (RFIRT) (who controls the braking of an train not fitted with continuous brakes) = el guarda

handsignalman = el cambista (RFIRT)

labourer = el peón

lengthman = el peón (de vía)

locomotive fireman = el fogonero = el foguista

PW ganger = el capataz de cuadrilla
PW squad = la cuadrilla de vía
PW sub-ganger = el segundo capataz de cuadrilla
railwayman = el ferroviario
shunter = el agujero? = el cambista (Arg.) = el garrotero (Mex.)? = el palanquero (Chile)
squad = la dotación
station assistant = el auxiliar (de estación) (RFIRT) (performs duties something like a station master, but rotates amongst the station staff three monthly where there are more than one appointed to a particular station)
station master = el jefe de estación
steamraiser in a loco shed = el vaporista (Arg.)
stoker = el fogonero = el foguista
superintendent = el superintendente, eg. Superintendente Seccional Trafico
telegraph linesman = el guardahilo
wagon examiner = el revisador de vehículos

STATIONS

end loading ramp = la rampa de punta
halt = el apeadero = la parada
notice board = el tablero
pen for livestock = el corral
shed = el galpon
side loading ramp = la rampa de costado
sign board = el tablero
station in advance = la estación de adelante (RFIRT)
station in the rear = la estación de atrás (RFIRT)
(station) name board = el nomenclado
(station) platform = la plataforma (more old fashioned term), = el anden (more modern term)
ticket office = la boletería (Arg)
unstaffed station = el apeadero
unstaffed station dealing with passengers = la parada
unstaffed station = el embarcadero (station with restricted facilities, but more than a halt)
wagon tippler = el equipo vuelca vagones (RFIRT)
waiting room = la sala de espera

TRACK (see also POINTS/SWITCHES)

60 cm gauge = la vía decauville
75 cm gauge = la trocha económica (Patagonia) = la vía angosta (Cent. Am.)
broad gauge = la trocha ancha
buffer stop = la marmita
cant = el peralte
catch point = el detentor
checkrail, eg. at points/switch or through/over bridge = el contracarril
chock = la calzada (RFIRT)
clamp (for points) = la grampa
dual gauge = la bitrocha = la vía mixta (Cent. Am.)

fishplate = la eclisa = la junta para riel = la planchuela
gauge = la trocha
gradient = la pendiente
level crossing barrier = la barrera
flange lubricator = el lubricador de pestañas (NB pestaña usual means eyelash!)
metre gauge = la trocha metrica = la trocha angosta (Arg.)
narrow gauge = la trocha angosta
position indicator for points = el indicador de cambio
rail joint = la junta de rieles
scotch block = la calzada (RFIRT)
standard gauge = la vía ancha (Cent. Am.)
superelevation = el peralte
track jack = el gato de vía (RFIRT) (probably a ratchet jack of perhaps 5 tons capacity)
wheel stop = la calzada (RFIRT)

Spanish / English

la **acción** = share. ie in a company
el **aceite diesel** (Cent Am) = diesel fuel
el **acoplador giratorio** = rotating coupling (invented for these pages)
el **acoplador (tipo) hacha** = chopper coupling (invented for these pages)
el **acoplador (tipo) puño** = knuckle coupling, buck eye coupling (invented for the purposes of these pages)
el **acoplador (tipo) anillo y perno** = link and pin coupling (invented for the purposes of these pages)
el **acople** = alternative nomenclature for acoplador
el **afloramiento** = outcrop of rock or ore
el **agente** = agent, employee, policeman
el **agua** (Cent. Am.) = water stand or water tank, presumably abbreviated from el tanque de agua, el punte de agua or el tome de agua
el **aguja** = (point) blade (feminine gender)
las **agujas de seguridad** = points with a facing point lock
las **agujas simples** = points without a facing point lock
el **aire comprimido** = compressed air
la **alcantarilla** = culvert
el **almacén** = store (as in workshops); grocer's shop
el **andén** = station platform (modern term)
el **apartadero** (RFIRT) = crossing place; with two running lines: the main line is bi-directional; the secondary running line may be bi-directional
el **apeadero** = halt, unstaffed station
la **arena** = sand
el **arenero** = sandbox
el **arrollamiento** = running-over (of livestock or person)
el **arroyo** = small stream
el **aserradero** = sawmill
el **auto de vía** = small railcar, self propelled insecton vehicle (like a Wyckham or

Fairmont trolley)

el **auxiliar (de estación)** (RFIRT) = station assistant; performs duties something like a station master, but rotates amongst the station staff three monthly where there are more than one appointed to a particular station

la **bajada** = slope, gradient

el **balasto** = (railway) ballast

la **baliza** = (strobe) head light

la **banderita** = flag

la **barrera** = level crossing barrier

el **barrio** = district, suburb, neighbourhood (USA)

la **báscula** = weighing machine, weighbridge

el **bastidor** = mainframe

el **bastón** = train staff

la **batería** (RFIRT) = electric battery (in Arg. more usually la pila)

el **bebedero** = cattle drinking trough at station

la **bencina** (Chile) = petrol

la **bitrocha** (Arg) = mixed gauge

los **bienes** (RFIRT) = assets

la **bodega** (Chile) = storage shed

la **bocina** = engine horn

el **bogie** = bogie/truck

el **bogie de forma diamante** = diamond frame bogie/archbar truck

la **boletería** (Arg) = ticket office

el **boleto** (Arg) = ticket

el **borde alto** (Arg) = high sided wagon

el **botiquín** = first aid box

el **brazo** = (signal) arm, (man's) arm

el **brete** = cattle loading ramp

el **bulto** = bale (eg. of wool)

el **buque** = vessel or ship

el **bus carril** (Chile) = railcar

el **cabín** (Arg.) = signal box

la **cabina** (Arg.) = alternative nomenclature for cabín; the particular form used will depend on the particular pre-nationalization railway on which it is/was located

la **cadena a eslabón** = three link coupling

la **caja de humos** = smoke box

la **caja de lubricación** = axlebox

la **caja de ejes** = axlebox

la **caja para punta de eje** = axlebox

el (vagón) **cajón** (Chile and Arg.) = high sided wagon

el **cajón de arena** = sand box

la **caldera** = boiler

la **calzada** (RFIRT) = wheel stop, chock

la **cama** = bed

el **camarero** = sleeping car attendant

el **cambio a mano** (RFIRT) = hand points

el **cambio a resorte** = sprung points; this does not necessarily involve the use of springs, but more usually by a hand lever weighted to self park in one position only, unlike the usual arrangement where it will self park in either position

el **cambio de punta** (RFIRT) = facing points

el **cambio de talón** (RFIRT) = trailing points

el **cambista** (Arg) = shunter

el **cambista** (RFIRT) = hand signalman

el **camión** = lorry/road truck

la **campana** = bell

la **campanilla** = hand bell

la **canilla** = tap

el **candado** = padlock

la **caña** = cane (for attaching wires of portable telephone to line side telephone overhead wires)

el **cañadón** = gorge or canyon

el **capataz** = forman

el **capataz de cuadrilla** = PW ganger

el **carro** (Mex.) = wagon

el **carro frutero** = banana wagon (Cent. Am.)

el **carro plano** (Chile) = flat wagon

la **carta de porte** = bill of lading

la **casa de máquinas** (Chile) = engine shed

la **casa redonda** = round house

la **caseta** = signal box; see note at cabina

la **casilla** = locomotive cab (Arg.)

la **casilla** (de señales) = signal box; see note at cabina

la **ceja** = (wheel) flange

el **cemento** = cement

la **cerradura de gaveta** = point lock at in-section siding operated by train staff

el **cilindro** = cylinder

la **ciudad** = town, city

la **clase unica** = classless passenger accommodation

el **coche** = coach

el **coche dormitorio** = sleeping carriage

el **coche motor** = motor coach or railcar

el **coche reservado** = officers' saloon, inspection saloon (locomotive hauled)

el **colero** (RFIRT) = final vehicle of block train; painted distinctively (red and white vertical bands) and carrying the appropriate end-of-train signals

la **colonia** = colony (Arg., eg. Colonia Sarmiento; settlement in unoccupied territory established by, or with consent of, the government)

la **combinación** = interchange (of passengers at a junction)

la **compañía** = company

la **compañía naviera** = shipping company, shipping line

el **compartimiento** = compartment

la **concesión** = concession (eg. to operate a railway)

el **conductor** (RFIRT) = conductor; the person who is in charge of the running of a train,

he is generally the same person as the engine driver

la **construcción** = construction (this may be used to describe both the process of constructing and the thing which has been constructed)

el **contenedor** = container

el **contracarril** = checkrail, eg. over/through bridge or at points/switch

la **contraluz** = back light (of signal)

el **contravapor** = putting steam engine into reverse to act as brake

el **corral** = pen for livestock

el **corte** = rake (of wagons)

la **cremallera** = rack (railway), or occasionally a rope worked incline

la **cruce de trenes** = process of two trains passing on a single track railway

la **cuadrilla de vía** = PW squad

el **cuadro absoluto** (RFIRT) = literally absolute square; fixed stop signal located at entrance to station (grande) or at exit from siding (chico); corresponding roughly in UK practice to fixed home and starting signals respectively

el (vagón) **cubierto** (Arg.) = covered wagon or van

el **cuello de hierro** = signal lever collar (to remind signalman not to clear signal as it is protecting a train.

la **curva** = curve

cv = caballo vapor = horsepower

la **chacra** = a land holding or division; in Chubut it is used to describe the Welsh farms of 100 hectares each.

la **chata contenedor** = flat wagon for containers (modern containers)

el **chiflón** = mine ventilation shaft or drift

la **chimenea inclinada** = sloping mine shaft for ventilation or haulage

decauville = system of light, temporary lines, cf 'Jubilee track', used in construction of public works, from the French Decauville company.

el **decreto** = decree ie. of government

el **depósito** = engine shed

en **depósito** = in storage (out of use)

el **desvío** = siding; an additional line used for shunting or the parking of vehicles, exceptionally it may be used for the crossing of trains; it may be of such a length that it would be considered a branch line - the airport siding at Puerto Madryn was 4km long and I've read of one in the north of no less than 101 km long!

el **desvío de cruce** = passing/crossing loop

el **detentor** = catch point

el **dique** = dam, reservoir

el **disco chico** (RFIRT) = literally 'small disc'; small disc placed below a disco de aproximación signal to indicate that the train need not stop at the entrance points to a stations as required by the disco de aproximación signal; corresponding roughly in UK practice to a fixed distant signal in the off position

el **disco de aproximación** (RFIRT) = literally 'approach disc'; fixed signal indicating that the train must stop at the entrance points to the station unless otherwise given a signal at that location; corresponding roughly in UK practice to a fixed distant signal in the on position

la **doble tracción** = double headed or banked
los **dormitorios** = bedrooms (sleeping coach)
la **dotación** = complement, crew, squad
la **draga** = dredger, eg. for gold
el **dueño** = the proprietor
el **durmiente**, de acero, de quebracho = steel / quebracho sleeper/crosstie

la **eclisa** = fishplate
el **edificio** = building
EFEA = Empresa Ferrocarriles del Estado Argentina = Argentine State Railways Company, ie the official name for the nationalised railway network after 1948. Later the less official term 'Ferrocarriles Argentinos' was popularly used.
el **eje** = axle
el **eje acoplado** = coupled axle
el **eje frenado** = braked axle
el **embalaje** = packaging
el **embalse** = reservoir
el **embarcadero** = unstaffed station, station with restricted facilities, but more than a halt; offers limited passenger and goods service
la **empresa** = undertaking, company
la **encomienda** = parcel, packet
la **encrucijada** = crossing nose or vee; frog in US or modelling usage
el **enganche automático** (RFIRT) = automatic coupling (knuckle)
el **enganche a cadena** (Arg.) = link and pin coupling
el **enganche a rosca** (Arg.) = screw coupling
el **equipaje** = luggage
la **esquema de ruedas** = wheel arrangement
el **equipo vuelca vagones** (RFIRT) = wagon tippler
la **especificación** = specifications
la **estaca del cambio** (RFIRT) = clearance post; indicating the point beyond which vehicles on two converging lines will foul each other
el **estaca de libranza** (RFIRT) = alternative nomenclature for estaca del cambio
la **estación de adelante** (RFIRT) = station in advance
la **estación de atrás** (RFIRT) = station in the rear
la **estancia** = large stock rearing farm, cf Australian sheep station
la **estadística** = statistics
el **estanque** = tank
el **estribo** = running plate, footplate
la **explotación** = operation, working, only rarely exploitation

el **fabricante** = maker, eg. Sharp Stewart, Henschel etc.
el **farol**, el **farol de mano** = hand lamp
el **farol de señal** = light (of signal)
FCAF = Ferrocarril Austral Fueguino = lit. Southern Fueguinian Railway, ie. the modern 50cm tourist line at Ushuaia.
FCCC = Ferrocarril Central del Chubut. NB In Spanish this should really be abbreviated 'FCCCCh' as 'Ch' counts as a separate single letter in Spanish. However the railway management always used the English abbreviation FCCC. Nota bene : La gerencia del

'FCCCH' usaba la abreviatura FCCC en sus escritos y para identificación sobre los vagones y locomotoras. La voz galesa o inglesa tiene la cuarta letra del abecedario como la 'd' no la "ch" como castellano en aquel tiempo.

FCE = Ferrocarril del Estado, Argentina, y Chile también. = State Railways, in both Argentina and Chile.

FCGR = Ferrocarril General Roca, ie. the title given in 1948 to the division of the EFEA incorporating the former FC Sud and the former FCE lines to Bariloche, Esquel and Coronel Sosa.

FCP = Ferrocarril Patagónico = Patagonian Railway(s), ie the two isolated broad gauge lines and the ex FCCC from 1948 until their takeover by the FC General Roca a few years later.

FCPV = Ferrocarril de Península Valdés = Peninsula Valdes railway, ie. the salt line to Pto. Piramides.

FCS = Ferrocarril Sud = Southern Railway, or more formally in English the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway Company.

el **ferrobus** (Bol) = railcar

el **ferrocarril** = railway

el **ferroviario** = railwayman

el **fogón** = fire box

el **fogonero** = locomotive fireman

el **foguista** = alternative nomenclature for fogonero

la **foja de ruta** = way bill

la **Fraternidad** (Arg.) = ASLEF in UK (roughly), ie locomen's union

el **flete** = freightage, charge for conveying freight

el **freno al aire comprimido** = air brake

el **freno al vacío** = vacuum brake

el **freno Westinghouse** (Arg.) = air brake

el **frigorífico** = meat freezing plant

la **fuerza** = force/power, eg. fuerza motriz = motive force or power

la **fuerza de tracción** = tractive effort

el **furgón** = van or box van or brake van, or sometimes a luggage compartment in passenger coach or guard's compartment in a passenger coach especially when a special vehicle for that purpose is not present

el **furgón** (RFIRT) = brake van (sole meaning)

el **furgón de cola** (FC Patagónico) = brake van

el **furgón de equipajes** = baggage car (USA), or luggage van/parcels van?

el **furgón de freno** = brake van

el **furgón postal** = postal van

la **galería** = mine tunnel or gallery

el **gálibo** (RFIRT) = loading gauge (dimensions thereof)

el **galpón** = shed

el **galpón de esquila** = sheep shearing shed on estancia

el **galpón de máquinas** = engine shed

el **ganado** (Arg) = livestock

los **gastos** = expenses

a **granel** = in bulk, loose (not in containers)

el **ganche mandíbula** = knuckle coupling, ie. buckeye/MCB coupling
el **gancho** = coupling hook (between buffers on buffer beam)
el **garrotero** (Mex.) = shunter?
los **gastos** (de explotación) = operating expenses excluding financial charges (producido - gastos = net operating revenue)
el **gato para mover al lado** = traversing jack (invented for these pages)
el **gato trasladador** = traversing jack (invented for these pages)
el **gato de vía** (RFIRT) = track jack; probably a ratchet jack of perhaps 5 tons capacity
el **gato de locomotora** (RFIRT) = locomotive jack; probably a traversing screw jack of perhaps 15 tons capacity
gentileza + name = courtesy of + name
la **giratoria** = turntable
la **grampa** = clamp (for points)
la **grasería** = meat rendering plant, eg. to extract grease
la **grúa** = crane
la **grúa de agua** = water crane
el **guarda** = guard
el **guardabarrera** = crossing keeper
el **guardahilo** = telegraph linesman
el **guardatrén** (RFIRT) = guard; who controls the braking of an train not fitted with continuous brakes
el **guardafreno** = brakeman
el **guinche** a vapor, o a mano = steam / hand winch (or sometimes crane)

la **hacienda** (Arg) = livestock (in Mex. = stately home!)
el **herrero** = blacksmith
el **hierro forjado** = wrought iron
el **hizagas** = gas producer
el **horario** (RFIRT) = time table; that part of the working time table which specifies the class, direction, number and running of the trains
el **hormigón** = concrete
la **huella** = (wheel) tread
el **humero** = smokebox
el **indicador de cambio** = position indicator for points
el **ingeniero** = professional engineer (not engine driver as in USA)
el **ingenio** = a sugar mill; or processing plant for crops
la **interconexión** = crossover (invented for the purposes of these pages)
el **itinerario de trenes** (RFIRT) = working timetable; a printed document which contains the timetable, together with information concerning the running and management of trains
la **inversión** = investment
el **jefe de estación** = station master
la **junta para riel** = fishplate
la **junta de rieles** = rail joint

la **junta sin eclisa** = early form of rail joint on the FC Central Argentine without fishplates

el **kilometraje** = distance in kilometres

la **lana** = wool

el **lavatorio** = washing compartment

la **letrina** = WC compartment

la **ley** = law

la **línea automotora Pullman** = road motor coach service (Arg.)

la **locomotora auxiliadora** (RFIRT) = assisting engine; whether located between the train engine and the train or at the rear pushing

la **locomotora auxilio** (RFIRT) = alternative nomenclature for locomotora auxiliadora

la **locomotora de patio** (Chile) = shunting engine

la **locomotora exploradora** (RFIRT) = exploratory engine; a light engine sent out into an occupied section to look for a train, or a rake of wagons, whose whereabouts is unknown

la **locomotora sola** = light engine (may be more than one engine coupled together and may include one, or more, brake vans attached)

la **locomotora titular** (RFIRT) = train engine; located at the very front of the train in front of any assisting engine

el **lubricador de pestañas** = flange lubricator (NB for interest, pestaña usually means eyelash!)

llega = arrives

la **maestranza** (Chile) = locomotive workshop

la **mala visibilidad** (RFIRT) = bad visibility; defined as visibility of less than 200 metres

la **mandíbula** (Uru.) = knuckle coupling

las maniobras = shunting

la **manga de freno** = brake hose

la **mampostería** = masonry

la **maniobra brusca** = rough shunt

la **maniobra volante** (RFIRT) = fly shunting; that is, when a locomotive pulling a rake of wagons is uncoupled from them while in motion and passes through facing points in a different direction to that of the following wagons

la **máquina** = alternative nomenclature for locomotora

el **maquinista** = engine driver

el **marco de palancas** = ground frame (ie. signal levers in frame but not in a signal box)

la **marmita** = buffer stop

el **mástil** = signal post

los **materiales** = materials (not cloth), stores

el **material rodante** = rolling stock

el vagón **medio-cajón** = low-sided open wagon

la **mesa giratoria** = turntable

la **meseta** = flat-topped plateau (lit: table).

la **milla** = mile = 1.608km.

la **mina (de carbon)** = (coal) mine

el **mineral** = mineral

el **Ministerio de Obras Publicas** = Ministry of Public Works (Arg.)

el **miriñaque** (Arg + Chile) = cow catcher (UK), pilot (USA)
el **mixto** = mixed train (ie conveys both passenger and goods stock)
el **montaje acoplador** = buffer beam
el '**Movimiento**' = train control office (Arg.) (more fully: la Oficina de Movimiento Seccional)
el **muelle** = pier, wharf
la **nafta** (Arg.) = petrol
la **neblina** = mist (defined as visibility of less than 200 m)
el **nomenclador** = (station) name board
la **novedad** (RFIRT) = incident, event, occurrence
el **número de fábrica** = works or builder's number
la **obra de arte** = engineering work; e.g. bridge
las **obras** = (construction) works
la **palanca** = signal lever
el **palanquero** (Chile) = shunter
el **palo** = (telegraph) pole, numbered from 1 each kilometre and used to make mileage location more precise
la **pampa** = area of flat land (from Quechua, the language of the Incas)
el **pañol** = bunker for coal or wood (usually in ship)
la **parada** = halt; unstaffed station dealing with passengers
el **paragolpe** = buffer
la **pasada de trenes** = one train overtaking another
el **pasaje** = fare
el **pasajero** = passenger
el **paso a nivel** = level crossing
a **paso de hombre** = walking pace
el **patio de maniobras** (Chile) = shunting yard, sometimes abbreviated to el **patio**.
la **pendiente** = slope, bank or gradient
el **peón** = labourer, PW worker, surfaceman, lengthman, agricultural worker
el **petardero** = fog signalman
la **playa** = beach; also open space eg **playa de estacionamiento** = car park, **playa de maniobras** = shunting yard
la **platina** = end balcony of coach?? fall plate??
el **peralte** = cant, superelevation
el **pertardo** = detonator, fog signal
el **peso adherente** = adhesive weight
el **peso propio** = unladen weight
la **pestaña** = wheel flange?
el **puque** = mine shaft
el **piso** = deck/storey, eg. de **dos pisos**, de **un piso** = double/single deck, eg. in livestock wagons
el **pito** = mouth whistle, or loco whistle (Arg.)
la **placa giratoria** = turntable
el **plano** = plan, design
la **plataforma** = station platform (more old fashioned term) or flat wagon with no or very

low sides

la **plataforma giratoria** = turntable

la **planchuela** = fishplate

el **platillo** = face of buffer

la **playa de maniobras** (Chile and Arg) = shunting yard

la **población** = village, population

el **práctico** = conductor (ie. person who knows the road and advises the engine driver who doesn't)

la **precaución** (Arg + RFIRT) = speed restriction

la **presión de caldera** = boiler pressure [200 psi = 14.1 kg/mm²]

el **producido** (= los productos de explotación = el producto de explotación) = gross operating revenue (as distinct from net)

el **pueblo** = village

el **puente** = bridge

el **puente giratorio** = turntable

el **puerto** = port

Pullman, see la **línea automotora Pullman** = road motor coach service (Arg.)

la **punta de agua** = water crane

el **quebracho** = extremely tough hardwood growing in the north of Argentina, sometimes known as ironwood; used for sleepers/cross-ties

el **radio** = radius

el **ramal** = branch line

la **rampa de costado** = side loading ramp

la **rampa de punta** = end loading ramp

el **recalentador** = superheater

la **red** = network eg. of railway routes, eg. la Red Norte de Chile

el **reemplazante** (RFIRT) = locum; person undertaking those duties at the particular time

el **reflector** = headlamp

la **reja quitanieves** = snow plough

la **remesa** = roundhouse

el **repetidor** = repeater signal

el **repuesto** = spare part

la **residencia** = living quarters

el **retraso** = delay

el **revisor de vehículos** = wagon examiner

RFIEP = Ramal Ferro Industrial Eva Perón = Eva Peron Industrial Railway Line. The original name for the Rio Turbio coal line until President Peron's fall from office in the mid 1950s.

RFIRT = Ramal Ferro Industrial Río Turbio = Rio Turbio Industrial Railway Line.

el **riel**, de hierro, de acero, = iron/steel rail

el **robinete** = steam release valve

el **rodado** = wheel arrangement

el **rodaje** = wheel arrangement

la **rueda** = wheel

la **rueda acoplada** = coupled wheel, driving wheel la **rueda portador** = carrying wheel (not bogie wheel)

la **rueda propulsora** = driving wheel

el **rodamiento** = roller bearing

la **sala de espera** = waiting room

sale = departs

la **salina** = salt flat

el **satelite** (RFIRT) = road-rail vehicle

la **sección block** = la **sección de bloqueo** = block section

el **segundo capataz de cuadrilla** = PW sub-ganger

el **semáforo** = (semaphore) signal

la **señal de avanzada** (Arg*) = advanced (starting) signal

la **señal de cola** (Arg*) = tail lamp of train

la **señal de distancia** (Arg*) = distant signal

la **señal enana** (Arg*) = dwarf signal

la **señal de entrada** (Arg*) = home signal

la **señal de entrada a desvío** (Arg*) = shunt to siding signal

el **señalero** = signalman

la **señal fija** (Arg*) = fixed signal

la **señal luminosa** (Arg*) = colour light signal

la **señal de llamada** (Arg*) = calling-on signal

la **señal de maniobra** (Arg*) = shunting signal

la **señal movable** (Arg*) = movable signal

la **señal de salida** (Arg*) = starting signal

la **señal que autoriza a correr por vía contraria** (Arg*) = wrong road working signal

*Note these terms all relate to traditional British signalling practice.

en **servicio** (RFIRT) = on duty (when working a shift system)

el **servicio diagramado** (RFIRT) = diagrammed service; that is, one operating to the time table contained within the current working time table

el **servicio programado** (RFIRT) = programmed service; that is, one operating to suit the exigencies of traffic through lack of a current working time table

el **silbato** = engine whistle

la **sobrecalentación** = superheating (Arg.)

SA = **sociedad anónima**, ie. a limited company. See also *Compañía Limitada*, above.

la **supercalentación** = superheating

el **superintendente** = superintendent, eg. *Superintendente Seccional Trafico*

el **tablero** = notice board or sign board

el **taller** = workshop

los **talleres** (Arg.) = locomotive workshops (series of shops with different functions, eg brass foundry, tin smith, painting, etc)

el **tanque** = tank

el **tanque de combustible** = fuel oil bunker

el **techo catedral** (invented for these pages) = used to mean clerestory (monitor) roof

el **techo jaulón** (invented for these pages) = used to mean a birdcage roof

el **ténder** = tender, or sometimes the bunker on a tank loco

el **tercero** = third party

el **terraplén** = embankment or cutting. (lit. ground plane).

la **timonería de freno** = brake rigging (excludes brake shoes)

la **tolva** = hopper wagon
la **toma de agua** = water crane
la **tonelada** = tonne, ton (depending on context).
el **tope** (Uru.) = buffer
la **tornamesa** (Chile) = turntable
el **tornillo** (Uru.) = screw coupling
el **tramo** (Chile) = section of line, branch line
la **trampa** = catch point
el **tren de auxilio** = breakdown train
el **tren combinación** = train with portions which will be detached en route to serve branch lines
el **tren de trabajo** = ballast train
el **triángulo** = triangle, or wye (for turning engines)
la **trocha** = track gauge
la **trocha ancha**, = broad gauge (Arg.)
la **trocha angosta** = narrow gauge
la **trocha económica** (Patagonia) = 75 cm gauge
la **trocha métrica** = metre gauge
los **trucks** = trucks ie. wagons (Arg. archaic)
los **tubos** = tubes (of engine boiler)
de **turno** (RFIRT) = on duty (when working a shift system)

el **vagón** (Arg.) = wagon
el **vagon** (Mex.) (no accent) = four wheeled mine tub
el **vagón de encomiendas** = In Arg. a better quality parcels and luggage van with vacuum brake, passenger bogies/trucks and steam heating pipe. The less good ones without these features were 'furgones de encomiendas'
el **vagón-jaula** = livestock wagon
el **vagón volcador** = tipper wagon
el **valle** = valley
la **válvula de seguridad** = safety valve (invented for these pages)
el **vapor** = steamer, steamship
el **vaporista** = a loco shed worker charged with raising steam on locos before the arrival of the crews (Arg.)
el **vehículo** = vehicle
el **velocípedo** = track bicycle
la **vía ancha** = standard gauge (Cent. Am.)
la **vía angosta** = narrow gauge (Cent. Am.)
la **vía ascendente** = up line (defined as direction of increasing mileage)
la **vía auxiliadora** (RFIRT) = additional / subsidiary line; a line which is not a running line
la **vía auxiliar** (RFIRT) = alternative nomenclature for vía auxiliadora; or station track other than a passing loop (Arg.)
la **vía descendente** = down line (defined as direction of decreasing mileage)
la **vía de tráfico** (RFIRT) = running line
la **vía férrea** = railway
la **Vía Libre** (RFIRT) = system of permissive block working

la **vía marítima** = shipping service
la **vía mixta** (Cent. Am.) = dual gauge
la **vía permanente** = track, or as in UK the permanent way
la **vía primera** (Arg. + RFIRT) = main line; the line which joins the stations and passes through them; the running of the trains on it is governed by rules and signals
la **vía principal** (Arg +RFIRT) = alternative nomenclature for vía primera
la **vía segunda** (RFIRT) = second (running) line at stations and crossing places
la **vía sencilla** = single track
la **vía tercera** = third (running) line (not siding) at stations and crossing places
el **viaje** = journey
el **viento** (huracanado) = winds (of hurricane force) (which do cause serious problems for train operation in Patagonia)
la **viga** = mainframe, chassis
la **viga castillo** (RFIRT) = colliery arch
la **villa** = town
el **wagón** (Arg., but outdated) = wagon
el **yacimiento** = mineral deposit, mine, quarry; el yacimiento de turba = peat deposit or bog.
la **zapata de freno** = brake shoe
la **zorra** (RFIRT) = motor (usually) trolley; which can readily be removed from the track by its own crew
la **zorra** (tramway) = works tram

30-12-04