

**To:** Distribution List

**Subject:** March 2021 AAR Circular Letter Summary

The March 2021 summary includes the (17) circular letters issued during the month.

This document provides a summary of each Association of American Railroads (“AAR”) circular letter issued during the previous month. A circular letter provides information of general applicability to the railroad industry, including proposed and final rules, standards, and recommended practices. Circulars are a fee-based service provided by AAR’s Transportation Technology Center, Incorporated (“TTCI”) located in Pueblo, Colorado. You may sign up to receive AAR circular letters online. If you need further assistance with access to circulars, please send any future questions and issues to Pubs@aar.com.

The Field Manual of the AAR Interchange Rules, Rule 1, b. (11), requires maintaining a copy of each “*mandatory circular letter*” that revises an “*Interchange Rule*” or the “*Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices.*” For your convenience, this document identifies mandatory circular letters. For those circulars that propose or implement final changes to an existing rule, standard, or recommended practice, this document provides an impact statement to car owners, lessors, mechanical shops, and railroad operations.

The following matrix identifies the AAR circular letter number, a summary of the circular, any effective date of a rule, standard, or recommended practice, any comment due date, an impact statement, and to the extent it applies, if the circular letter is mandatory.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom DeLafosse at 630.512.7595 or [tom.delafosse@salcoproducts.com](mailto:tom.delafosse@salcoproducts.com).

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
<b>Implemented Changes, Effective the Date of Circular</b>		
C-13752 Mar. 3, 2021	<p><b>Subject:</b> Revisions to Office Manual Rule 88.C.1.d(2) and Rule 88.C.3.c(17).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Circular C-13717 was issued regarding proposed revisions to Office Manual Rule 88.C.1.d(2) and Rule 88.C.3.c(17). Multiple comments were received prompting the following change to the proposed Rule 88.C.1.d(2)(g): Tank cars which are designated to carry lading of anhydrous ammonia, or of poisonous by inhalation/toxic by inhalation as defined in 49 CFR § 171.8, must have wheel sets with new wheels and new or reconditioned 6 ½” x 9” journal roller bearings. Testing of axles ultrasonically in accordance with MSRP M-101 (for new) or MSRP S-659 (for reconditioned) is applicable.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Effective April 1, 2021 with the release of the April 2021 AAR Office Manual revisions.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Tank</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Changes proposed in C-13717, with the revision identified, stand approved.</p>

<p>C-13753 Mar. 8, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section K-1 Railway Electronics Systems Architecture and Concept of Operations, Standard S-9081.V1.2.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Standard S-9081.V1.2 contains the format and establishes some of the data contents of the Train Sheet Transaction Set (EDI 161), Applicable Advice - Train Sheet (EDI 824) and Train Consist Transaction Set (EDI 418J) for use within the context of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) environment.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Standard S-9081.V1.2 was Adopted in 2021 and is attached to this Circular in PDF format. It will be incorporated in the next issue of the MSRP, Section K-1 Railway Electronics Systems Architecture.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Railroads</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> These transaction sets can be used to allow railroads to exchange train information and ensure that the crews operating equipment on the railroads are aware of current operating conditions.</p>
<p>C-13754 Mar. 10, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Additions to MSRP Section F, SENSORS   S-920 AAR Component Identification Bar Code Standard: Tank Car Service Equipment: Pressure Relief Valves (PRV).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This implementation circular is being released to the industry for revisions to AAR's Manual of Standards &amp; Recommended Practices (MSRP) Section F - Sensors / Standard S-920 / Section 21.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The revised standard is attached, now implemented and effective July 1, 2021. This release is made in concert with CPC-1375 reflecting corresponding technical standards changes to MSRP C-III, Specification for Tank Cars (M-1002). Modifications will be incorporated in the appropriate sections of the next issue of the Manual of Standard and Recommended Practices.</p> <p>Pressure relief valve (PRV) manufacturers and reconditioners are hereby required to add approved AAR bar code labels to their product beginning on July 1, 2021.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Tank</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes if reconditioning PRD's is a service they provide.</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> NOTE - Temporary changes to bar code approval process: Be advised that due to internal, administrative changes; MSRP Section F, Paragraph 3.2.1 through 3.2.5 are temporarily superseded by instructions provided in CPC-1375. The process described in CPC-1375 will govern only to bar codes approved for use in this case until a permanent update is approved and released.</p>
<p>CPC-1375 Mar. 10, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section C-III, Specification for Tank Cars (M-1002), Chapter 1, Appendix A, and Appendix D (Docket T100.22.1).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR Tank Car Committee has approved to move forward with component tracking of tank car service equipment, starting with pressure relief valves. This is the final action on revisions to Chapter 1, Appendix A, and Appendix D of the AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section C, Part III, Specifications for Tank Cars (M-1002).</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> July 1, 2021</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Tank</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> The revisions are identified by change bars in the margins of the Chapter 1, Appendix A, and Appendix D attachments.</p>

<p>C-13755 Mar. 12, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective April 1, 2021.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Car Repair Facility Labor Rate, effective April 1, 2021 is \$130.64. This represents a decrease of two cents (\$0.02) from the calculation for January 1, 2021. The changes to the rate are due to updated surveys received for employer contributions to health &amp; welfare, payroll taxes, unemployment insurance, and other direct labor expenses.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The change will be reflected in the April 1, 2021 release of the AAR Office Manual.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> The last wage increase for participants was 3 percent effective July 1, 2019. BRC, IAM, and IBBM have yet to ratify new national labor agreements.</p>
<p>C-13756 Mar. 12, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Canadian Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective April 1, 2021.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Canadian Car Repair Facility Labor Rate, effective April 1, 2021 is \$205.74 CAD. This represents a decrease of \$0.90 CAD from the calculation for January 1, 2021.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The change will be reflected in the April 1, 2021 release of the Canadian Price Master.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> The currency conversion factor used to calculate the health &amp; welfare portions of the April 1 Canadian Labor Rate is 1.2690. This caused the decrease in the Canadian Labor Rate.</p>
<p>CPC-1376 Mar. 19, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section C-III, Specification for Tank Cars (M-1002), Chapter 1 and Appendix T (Docket T88.1-93).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Revisions to Chapter 1 and Appendix T of the AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section C, Part III, Specifications for Tank Cars (M-1002). The revisions are identified by change bars in the margins of the Chapter 1 and Appendix T attachments to this CPC.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> March 19, 2021</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Tank Cars</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If M-1002 is a required publication for your facility, be sure to update the revised Appendix T attached to this circular.</p>

<p>C-13757 Mar. 23, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to Figures 1-B, 21-D, 36-B, 48-C, 48-D, and 54-B – Section 6 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has created a Chain Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to review all the chain figures in Section 6 OTLR for correct chain charts and any verbiage referencing to Working Load Limit (WLL) or Proof Test changed to Minimum Breaking Strength (MBS). The OTLR committee has approved the following revisions to Section 6 OTLR manual for Figures 1-B, 21-D, 36-B, 48-C, 48-D, and 54-B.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The implementation of these revisions is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the OTLR manual. If this publication is required for your facility, insert the circular attachments for Figures 1-B, 21-D, 36-B, 48-C, 48-D, and 54-B in your Section 6 copy if this is a required publication for your facility.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Open Top Gondolas</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Carriers are asked to ensure that copies of this circular letter are distributed to all concerned shippers and railroad personnel for their attention and guidance.</p>
<p>C-13758 Mar. 23, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation to archive Figure 58: Vehicles, Light Armored and Similar, 30,000 lb. and under—Flatcars – Section 6 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) had decided to archive Section 6, Figure 58: Vehicles, Light Armored and Similar, 30,000 lb. and under—Flatcars. The OTLRC believes the chain tiedown for light armored vehicles is already shown in Fig. 58-B, so there is no value in retaining this figure in the OTLR manual. The OTLR Committee has approved to archive this figure to Section 4 of the OTLR manual.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> These changes to Sections 4 and 6 OTLR are effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the AAR's OTLR Manual. Insert the circular attachment for Figure 58 in your Section 6 copy if this is a required publication for your facility.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Open Top Gondolas</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Carriers are asked to ensure that copies of this circular letter are distributed to all concerned shippers and railroad personnel for their attention and guidance.</p>

<p>C-13759 Mar. 23, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to Figures 58-B, 58-C, 58-E, 63-A, and 83 – Section 6 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has created a Chain Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to review all the chain figures in Section 6 OTLR for correct chain charts and any verbiage referencing to Working Load Limit (WLL) or Proof Test changed to Minimum Breaking Strength (MBS). After reviewing the TAG's findings, the OTLR committee has approved revisions to Section 6 OTLR manual for Figures 58-B, 58-C, 63-A, and 83.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The implementation of these revisions is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the OTLR manual. Insert the circular attachments for Figures 58-B, 58-C, 58-E, 63-A, and 83 in your Section 6 copy if this is a required publication for your facility.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Open Top Gondolas</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Carriers are asked to ensure that copies of this circular letter are distributed to all concerned shippers and railroad personnel for their attention and guidance.</p>
<p>C-13760 Mar. 23, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to Figures 87, 87-B, 88-B, 88-F, 88-K, and 101-A – Section 6 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has created a Chain Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to review all the chain figures in Section 6 OTLR for correct chain charts and any verbiage referencing to Working Load Limit (WLL) or Proof Test changed to Minimum Breaking Strength (MBS). The OTLR committee has approved the following revisions to Section 6 OTLR manual for Figures 58-B, 58-C, 63-A, and 83.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The implementation of these revisions is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the OTLR manual. Insert the circular attachments for Figures 87, 87-B, 88-B, 88-F, 88-K, and 101-A in your Section 6 copy if this is a required publication for your facility.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Open Top Gondolas</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Carriers are asked to ensure that copies of this circular letter are distributed to all concerned shippers and railroad personnel for their attention and guidance.</p>

<p>C-13762 Mar. 30, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation Circular: Revisions to Office Manual Rule 88, Form 88-C, Rule 93, and Appendix E.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> On February 26, 2021, comment circular C-13750 was issued regarding proposed revisions to Office Manual Rule 88, Rule 93, and Appendix E. No comments were received. Accordingly, the changes proposed in C-13750 stand approved and will be implemented effective April 1, 2021 with the release of the April 2021 AAR Office Manual revisions.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> direct any question to the Miles Lucero at mlucero@aar.org</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Reference from C-13750: revise Rule 88 and remove the Form 88-C paper submission process for newly acquired units</p>
<p>CPC-1378 Mar. 30, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Clarification on Serial Number Markings on Tank Car Service Equipment.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> For service equipment built prior to July 1, 2021, the serial number must be permanently marked by the manufacturer based on the built after effective date as previously specified in Appendix A (prior to CPC-1375). For convenient reference, the built after effective dates for each service equipment type are summarized in this CPC.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> See CPC for implementation dates.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Tank</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> For service equipment manufactured/assembled after July 1, 2021, the serial number must be permanently marked by the C4a or C4m facility as specified in the Appendix A issued under CPC-1375.</p>
<p>C-13763 Mar. 31, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section K-VI Railway Data Management and Communications, S-9558.V1.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Standard S-9558.V1.0 describes the common IP address blocks reserved among the railroads participating in Positive Train Control (PTC). The purpose of this document is to ensure that railroads are not using the same IP addressing elsewhere in the network for other communications purposes.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> S-9558.V1.0 will be incorporated into the next issue of the MSRP, Section K-VI Railway Data Management and Communications.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Railroads</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Insert the attachment to this circular in your copy of the MSRP Section K-VI and be governed accordingly.</p>

Changes Pending 30-Day Comment Period from Date of Circular		
<p>C-13751 Mar. 2, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to Circular 42, General Rules Covering Loading or Carload Shipments of Commodities in Closed Cars (DP&amp;FC).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Circular 42, General Rules Covering Loading or Carload Shipments of Commodities in Closed Cars (DP&amp;FC): Section 4 – Distribution of Weight Crosswise in Cars.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> All comments, relevant to the proposed revisions, received within 30 days of the issuance of this circular will be considered by the Damage Prevention and Freight Claim Committee prior to acting.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Railroads</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Changes are marked with change bars in the attached file to this circular noted as: Circular 42-O. It also replaces Circular 42-N.</p>
<p>C-13761 Mar. 30, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section S-III, Coupler and Yoke Details, Standard S-105, Coupler E Type Detail Parts, regarding making reduced slack components standard.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section S-III, Standard S-105, Coupler E Type Detail Parts, regarding making reduced slack components standard for new production.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> All comments, relevant to the proposed revisions, received within 30 days of the issuance of this circular will be considered by the CSTCC prior to acting.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Comments from interested parties are herewith solicited under the provisions of AAR Standard S-050.</p>
<p>C-13764 Mar. 31, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> DRAFT S-9371.V4.0 - PTC Onboard Segment - Energy Management Interface Control Document (ICD) is available for review and comment. In support of AAR's MSRP, Section K-IV, Office Architecture and Railroad Electronics Messaging.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Positive Train Control Interoperability Committee (PTCIC) of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) is publishing DRAFT Standard S-9371.V4.0 - PTC Onboard Segment - Energy Management Interface Control Document (ICD) for review and comment.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This document will have a 15-day comment period. The time will begin with the date posted 3/31/21.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Railroads</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> The document contains the messages passed between a PTC onboard segment and an Energy Management (EM) system that operates on a locomotive. The PTC onboard segment connects to the Energy Management (EM) as an EMP client, and Energy Management acts as an EMP server.</p>