

**To:** Distribution List

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

The August 2021 summary includes the (13) 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-13837 Aug. 2, 2021	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Authentication and Validation of Automated Single Car Air Brake Tests.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> (FRA) published Final Rule entitled Miscellaneous Amendments to Brake System Safety Standards and Codification of Waivers in December of 2020. Recognizing the benefit of an Automated Single Car Test (ASCT) over a manual test, FRA made permanent the extension for cars that receive a Single Car Test (SCT) with an Automated Single Car Test Device (ASCTD).</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> As part of FRA’s rulemaking, AAR’s S-486 and S-4027 were incorporated into the federal regulations detailing the federal requirements for a SCT. Adherence to S-486 and S-4027 is required to satisfactorily complete the tests, and to report the car as having received a single car test. The ASCTD’s are required to capture pertinent information as specified in S-4027. In lieu of stenciling, FRA allows the use of secure “electronic or automated tracking system” that is capable of being</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Recent FRA audits have identified errors for cars that were indicated as having passed an automated test but lacked validation.</p> <p>For compliance, attention should be directed to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accurate operator ID which can be traced to training records.</li> </ol>

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	<p>reviewed and monitored by FRA at any time to ensure the integrity of the system.</p> <p>As a result of recent audits of ASCT records, particularly items 1 and 4 above, an Equipment Advisory will identify equipment having incomplete ASCT test records. The affected equipment will be required to receive a properly verified ASCT.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Accurate car identification, including car letters and numbers.</li> <li>3. Correct identification of brake equipment being tested.</li> <li>4. Machine-logged record of a passed automated test.</li> </ol>
<p>CPC-1384 Aug. 16, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Recommended Railroad Operating Practices for Transportation of Hazardous Materials (OT55R).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> AAR's Safety and Operations department is amending OT-55 by adding back in Appendix 3, the list of Environmentally Sensitive Chemicals. The Sample Request for Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Information will now be in Appendix 4.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> These are the only changes from OT-55-Q. AAR Circular No. OT-55-R (attached) becomes effective April 30, 2021 and supersedes OT-55-Q.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Tank</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Under the provisions of Standard S-050, which may be found on the TTCI web site (<a href="http://www.AAR.com">www.AAR.com</a>), this circular reflects the final action on this matter.</p>
<p>C-13839 Aug. 16, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section K-V Electronics Environmental Requirements and Systems Management, Standard S-9452A.V2.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Standard S-9452A.V2.0 details the wayside interface unit (WIU) asset-specific data dictionary for ITC systems management (ITCSM).</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> S-9452A.V2.0 will be incorporated into the next issue of the MSRP, Section K-V Electronics Environmental Requirements and Systems Management. Insert the Circular in your copy of the MSRP Section K-V.</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> If Section K-V is a required publication for your facility be sure to update your copy with the revised Standard S-9452A.</p>
<p>C-13840 Aug. 17, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section K-V Electronics Environmental Requirements and Systems Management, Standard S-9451A.V2.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Standard S-9451A.V2.0 details the WIU asset-specific requirements for ITC systems management (ITCSM).</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> S-9451A.V2.0 will be incorporated into the next issue of the MSRP, Section K-V Electronics Environmental Requirements and Systems Management.</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> If Section K-V is a required publication for your manual be sure to download a copy of the revised S-9451.V2.0 and update your manual.</p>

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C-13841 Aug. 17, 2021	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section K-I Railway Electronics Systems Architecture and Concept of Operations, Standard S-9076.V1.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Standard S-9076.V1.0 describes the Interoperable Train Control Systems Management (ITCSM) Gateway requirements for processing interoperable ISMP messages.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> S-9076.V1.0 will be incorporated in the next issue of MSRP, Section K-I Railway Electronics Systems Architecture and Concept of Operations.</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> If Section K-I is a required publication for your manual be sure to download a copy of the revised S-9076.V1.0 and update your manual.</p>
C-13842 Aug. 17, 2021	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section K-V Electronics Environmental Requirements and Systems Management, Standard RP-9457.V2.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Recommended Practice RP-9457.V2.0 provides a recommended practice for testing the PTC system. The MTS establishes a common approach and terminology for testing PTC systems for use among railroads and their vendors.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> RP-9457.V2.0 will be incorporated into the next issue of the MSRP, Section K-V Electronics Environmental Requirements and Systems Management.</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> If Section K-V is a required publication for your manual be sure to download a copy of the revised S-9457.V2.0 and update your manual.</p>
CPC-1385 Aug. 18, 2021	<p><b>Subject:</b> The purpose of this letter is to remind industry of the how the PRV registration system works. Facilities are attempting to register PRVs without approved PRV bar code labels, facilities not authorized to register PRVs are attempting to register PRVs, and facilities not authorized to associate a PRV to a tank car are attempting to do so.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Registration of a PRV is only permitted by a tank car facility certified for activity codes C4 (C4a/C4m) and C5 and only where a C4 or C5 facility has an AAR-approved PRV bar code label. Furthermore, a PRV can only be associated with a tank car if the facility is certified for activity codes C6, C6i, or C6r. Each C4 (C4a/C4m), and/or C5 certified facility actively registering PRV's without PRV bar code label approval must stop doing so immediately until authorization to resume registration in accordance with paragraph 3.0 of S-920 has been received from AAR. Tank car facilities failing to comply with M-1002 and S-920 may be audited to determine compliance per M-1002, Appendix B, paragraph 4.7.1.2.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Tank Cars</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> C5 Facilities</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> As a note to the tank car owners, AAR issues notification emails with attached acceptance letters to the certified facilities once their PRV bar code label is accepted by the AAR.</p>

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	<p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Tank cars not in compliance with S-920 are not compliant in interchange.</p>	
<b>Changes Pending 30-Day Comment Period from Date of Circular</b>		
<p>C-13838 Aug. 13, 2021 <b>See Circular letter C-13847, which supersedes this circular!</b></p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation for Comments for Proposed Revisions to AAR MSRP Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The planned release date for this revision is October 2021. AAR Accredited Quality Assurance Auditors will begin utilizing the revision upon release. However, auditors will not document a nonconformance finding under the new requirements until March 2022, allotting six months for M-1003 certified facility's Quality Assurance Programs to be revised accordingly.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Comments received within 30-calendar days of this letter will be considered by the Quality Assurance Committee before final action is taken. To be considered by the AAR Quality Assurance Committee, all comments must be logged on the attached spreadsheet "MSRP-J Master Comment Log 2021," and the information requested for each cell must be provided or will not be considered.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> M-1003 Certified Companies</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Questions should be directed to either Don Guillen or Mark Rusovick with the AAR Quality Assurance Committee at QA@aar.com.</p>
<p>C-13845 Aug. 25, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Proposed Revisions to MSRP - Section T- Interoperable Fuel Tenders for Locomotives, Specification M-1004 - Specification for Fuel Tenders.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to seek comments on the proposed revisions to the AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP) - Section T-Interoperable Fuel Tenders for Locomotives, Specification M-1004 - Specifications for Fuel Tenders.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Interested parties should download the attachment to this circular and provide your comment within the 30-day requested time as you see fit.</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 M-1004 Specification and supporting standards allow new fuel tenders to be qualified for unrestricted interchange in freight service.</p>
<p>C-13846 Aug. 26, 2021</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Proposed Revisions to MSRP, Section M, locomotives, and Locomotive Interchange Equipment: Standard S-5513 – Locomotive Averter Requirements.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This Circular letter is soliciting comments for proposed revisions to Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP) Section M, Standard: S-5513 – Locomotive averter Requirements.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> All comments received within 30 days of the issuance of this circular will be considered by</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> Interested parties should download the attachment to this circular and provide comments as noted.</p>

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	the Locomotive Committee and appropriate revisions, if any, will be made prior to implementation.	
C-13847 Aug. 31, 2021	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation for Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003. This Circular Letter supersedes Circular Letter C-13838 in its entirety including attachments.</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 Quality Assurance Committee prior to acting.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Interested parties should download the attachments to this circular and provide comments as instructed within the circular.</p>
<b>General Information for the Industry</b>		
C-13843 Aug. 18, 2021	<p><b>Subject:</b> Updated Schedule for 2021 AAR M-1003 Basic and Advanced Auditor Training Classes.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Association of American Railroads (AAR) Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) has finalized the following schedule for the remaining 2021 AAR M-1003 Quality Assurance Training classes. The Basic Auditor Training classes will remain in Webinar format throughout 2021, but the Advanced Auditor Training classes will be in-person, on-site training classes.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Per AAR policy, in-person classes are only open to those who are fully vaccinated for COVID (at least two weeks past final vaccination). Proof of vaccination status will not be required.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Industry Information</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Questions should be directed to either Don Guillen or Mark Rusovick with the AAR Quality Assurance Committee at QA@aar.com.</p>
C-13844 Aug. 19, 2021	<p><b>Subject:</b> Save the Date - Announcing the 2022 AAR's 34th Quality Assurance Auditor and Industry Conference.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Association of American Railroads (AAR) Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) has scheduled the Annual AAR Quality Assurance Auditor and Industry Conference for April 12-14, 2022, in Fort Worth, Texas.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Interested parties should mark your calendars.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Industry Information</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> See this circular for details.</p>