

**To:** Distribution List

**Subject:** March 2023 AAR Circular Letter Summary

The March 2023 summary includes the (9) 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-14109 Mar. 6, 2023	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective April 1, 2023.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Car Repair Facility Labor Rate, effective April 1, 2023 is \$187.57, an increase of \$0.57 (or 0.30%) from the labor rate calculated for January 1, 2023.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This will be reflected in the April 1, 2023 release of the AAR Office Manual.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possibly</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> New independent labor agreements were signed in the first quarter 2023 and immediately implemented retroactive wage increases. The new agreements are like the national wage increases structure along with three \$1,000 lump sum payments; however, they vary by contract.</p>

<p>C-14111 Mar. 9, 2023</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Circular No. 42-P, General Rules Governing the Loading of Carload Shipments of Commodities in Closed Car (DP&amp;FC).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Damage Prevention &amp; Freight Claim Committee (DP&amp;FC) has approved changes to Circular No. 42-P, General Rules Governing the Loading of Carload Shipments of Commodities in Closed Car (DP&amp;FC).</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This revision to Circular 42, General Rules Governing the Loading of Carload Shipments of Commodities in Closed Car (DP&amp;FC) are now implemented and effective immediately.</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> Circular 42-P (Supersedes Circular No. 42-O).</p>
<p><b>Changes Pending 30-Day (Generally) Comment Period from Date of Circular</b></p>		
<p>C-14110 Mar. 8, 2023</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section H-II, Roller Bearing Manual, Standard S-723, Inner Ring Inspection. Additional inspection requirements.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> this circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to MSRP Section H-II, Roller Bearing Manual, S-723, Inner Ring Inspection, regarding inspection of the inner ring in both directions.</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 WABL Committee.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No, Bearing shops, yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> The proposed inspection of the inner ring in both directions has a maximum one-year industry cost of \$4.35 million and 15-year net present cost of \$35.15 million.</p>
<p>C-14113 Mar. 14, 2023</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-910 and Specifications M-800 and M-801, edits relative to marking of autoracks and certain hopper cars.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit comments for the following revisions: S-910, M-800, and M-801. Refer to the circular for the attachments noting the proposed revisions.</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 AAR Equipment Engineering Committee</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes for S-910 Autorack height clearance.</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Refer to the circular for the proposed revised changes.</p>

<p>C-14116 Mar. 15, 2023</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for revisions to MSRP E Brakes and Brake Equipment, S-4027, Automated Single Car Test Equipment, Conventional Brake Equipment—Design and Performance Requirements. Data validation enhancements.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section E, S-4027 Automated Single Car Test Equipment, Conventional Brake Equipment—Design and Performance Requirements.</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 BSC prior to further action.</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> The changes are to enhance the accuracy and consistency of Automated Single Car Test Device test data to facilitate compliance with Federal Railroad Administration requirements.</p>
<p>C-14114 Mar. 15, 2023</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section B, Freight Car Draft Components, Specification M-921D Cushioning Devices, End-of-Car, Motor-Vehicle-Carrying. Addition of New Requirements.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to MSRP Section B, Freight Car Draft Components, Specification M-921B Cushioning Devices, End-of-Car, Motor-Vehicle-Carrying.</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 AAR Equipment Engineering Committee.</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> Interested parties should download the proposed revised Specification M-921D for review and possible comment.</p>
<p>C-14117 Mar. 16, 2023</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Canadian Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective April 1, 2023</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Canadian Car Repair Billing Labor Rate calculation for April 1, 2023 is \$242.94 CAD, an increase of \$3.57 CAD from the calculation for January 1, 2023.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The change will be reflected in the April 1, 2023 release of the Canadian Price Master.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Canadian RR’s</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possibly</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> For comparison purposes, this converts to about \$176.54 in U.S. dollars. The currency conversion factor used to calculate the Health &amp; Welfare portions of the January 1 Canadian Labor Rate was 1.3346.</p>

General Information for the Industry		
<p>C-14112 Mar. 9, 2023</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> MSRP Section N, Specification M-951, Portable Bridge Plates for Multi-Level Auto Rack Cars.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This is an informational circular to allow the industry time to prepare for changes to MSRP, Section N, M-951. The Specially Equipped Freight Car Committee is implementing revisions to Specification M-951 that will be effective on 01/01/2025. This implementation will sunset any low-capacity bridge plate, which is a bridge plate manufactured prior to 2005.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The addition will be to Specification M-951, 8.5 Any bridge plate manufactured prior to 2005 will no longer be approved for vehicle loading or unloading.</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> Questions should be directed to Mr. David Hendrixon, Manager, Specially Equipped Freight Car Committee at TTCI via email at David_Hendrixon@aar.com</p>
<p>C-14115 Mar. 15, 2023</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> 2023 AAR M-1003 Quality Assurance Auditor Training Class Schedule.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Association of American Railroads (AAR) Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) has updated the schedule for the 2023 AAR M-1003 Quality Assurance Training classes.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Refer to this circular for locations and dates.</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> MxV Rail is offering a full schedule of in person training classes throughout 2023.</p>