

To: Distribution List

Subject: August, 2023 AAR Circular Letter Summary

The August 2023 summary includes the (14) 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.

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
Implemented Changes, Effective the Date of Circular		
CPC-1409 Aug. 3, 2023	<p>Subject: DOT Railworthiness Directive 2023-01.</p> <p>Summary: The AAR TCC has issued EA SH4006 to track DOT Railworthiness Directive 2023-01. The guidance listed in this CPC was offered by DOT when placing a listed tank car into transportation.</p> <p>Implementation Date: After the cars have been inspected and qualified by SMBC they will be removed from the EA.</p>	<p>Car Type: Tank Cars</p> <p>Car Owner: Just SMBC</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: Refer to RWD 2023-01 for cars with rubber linings requiring inspection.</p>

<p>C-14196 Aug. 7, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Implementation of 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>Summary: The purpose of this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to MSRP Section B, Freight Car Draft Components, Specification M-921B Cushioning Devices, End-of-Car.</p> <p>Implementation Date: M-921D is now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section B.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: If Section B is a required publication for your location, be sure to update your copy.</p>
<p>C-14198 Aug. 7, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Implementation of Editorial 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 multiple unit cars, autoracks, and certain hopper cars.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to notify the industry of editorial revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details. The edits have been made by the AAR Equipment Engineering Committee and are highlighted in the attachments to this circular with change bars.</p> <p>Implementation Date: The revised publications, S-910, M-800, and M-801 are now implemented and effective immediately.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: Autoracks, yes</p> <p>Comments: These modifications will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section C.</p>
<p>C-14199 Aug. 7, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section B, Freight Car Draft Components, Specifications M-901E and M-901G Draft Gear Requirements, regarding extending the limits of travel.</p> <p>Summary: The purpose of this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to the noted revisions to the Specifications in MSRP Section B:</p> <p>Implementation Date: Specifications M-901E and M-901G are now implemented and effective immediately.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: These modifications will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section B. If this is a required publication for your facility, be sure to update your manual with the attached revised M-901-E.</p>

<p>C-14202 Aug. 9, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Implementation Effective Immediately: Corrections to July 2023 Field Manual Rules 3, 5 and 16.</p> <p>Summary: The purpose of this circular letter is to notify the industry that there were three items found in the July 2023 update to the Field Manual that require correction.</p> <p>Implementation Date: This circular is identified as mandatory in accordance with Field Manual Rule 1.5.b(11) and the attached pages 31, 32, 66 and 204 must be maintained until the next revision of the Field Manual.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: Refer to this circular for the three noted revisions.</p>
<p>Changes Pending 30-Day (Generally) Comment Period from Date of Circular</p>		
<p>C-14194 Aug. 2, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments: Revisions to MSRP Section F, Sensors, Standard S-6001, Bearing Temperature Performance.</p> <p>Summary: The Equipment Health Monitoring Committee (EHMC) is releasing this circular to solicit comments on the proposed addition to the subject section within AAR's Manual of Standards & Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section F – Sensors.</p> <p>Implementation Date: The comment period will remain open for thirty (30) days from the date of the issuance of this circular. All written comments received will be considered by EHMC prior to final action on the proposed additions.</p>	<p>Car Type: Railroads</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: The proposed additions to S-6001 are appended to this circular. Specific details of the proposed additions are shown with change bars in the margin of the attached file.</p>
<p>CPC-1408 Aug. 2, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments on Proposed Revisions to MSRP Section C-III, Specification for Tank Cars (M-1002), Chapter 1 and Appendix C.</p> <p>Summary: The Tank Car Committee (TCC) is requesting comments on the proposed revisions identified by change bars in the margin within the attached Chapter 1 and Appendix C of AAR MSRP C-III, Specifications for Tank Cars (M-1002).</p> <p>Implementation Date: 30 days from issuance of this CPC, which will be Sept. 2, 2023</p>	<p>Car Type: Tank Cars</p> <p>Car Owner: Possible</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: Refer to this CPC's attachments for the noted changes and provide any comments you have using the PC-1, Version 6 form.</p>

<p>C-14195 Aug. 7, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-2056, Clearance Plate Diagrams for Interchange Service: Proposed updated to Plate H.</p> <p>Summary: The AAR Clearance Task Force and the Equipment Engineering Committee have agreed to this update that better defines clearances near the trucks of double-stack container cars.</p> <p>Implementation Date: All comments, relevant to the proposed revisions, received within 30 days of the issuance of this circular will be considered by the Equipment Engineering Committee.</p>	<p>Car Type: Double Stack</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: Only if you work autoracks.</p> <p>Comments: Proposed changes to Plate H in the attached draft are included in the proposed changes.</p>
<p>C-14197 Aug. 7, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, RP-2018 Handholds, Steps, and Ladders for Interior Access - New guidance for safety appliances located below the bottom of the coupler shank.</p> <p>Summary: New guidance has been added to prevent safety appliances located below the bottom of the coupler shank from interfering with the uncoupling lever.</p> <p>Implementation Date: 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>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: Yes</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: A draft of the proposed Recommended Practice is attached, with change bars denoting the edited sections. If adopted, the attached version would replace the current version in its entirety.</p>
<p>C-14200 Aug. 7, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section C-II, Specification M-1001, Design, Fabrication, and Construction of Freight Cars, Chapter 2 – General Data: Update of Weight and Axle Spacing Criteria.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to MSRP Section C-II, Specification M-1001 Design, Fabrication, and Construction of Freight Cars, Chapter 2 – General Data. Paragraph 2.1.2.3 "Cooper Bridge Rating Criteria" was updated to include two methods for determining if a car meets the criteria for unrestricted interchange.</p> <p>Implementation Date: 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>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: None expected.</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: A draft of the proposed specification is attached, with change bars added to the subject edits on the first two pages. Subsequent change bars denote changes that are editorial in nature.</p>

<p>C-14201 Aug. 8, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section E, Brakes and Brake Equipment, Specification M-602, Gaskets, Air Hose, for the addition of an Alternate Gasket.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section E, BRAKES AND BRAKE EQUIPMENT, Specification M-602, Gaskets, Air Hose. The proposed revision includes an Alternate Gasket, informally known as wide-lipped, wide flange, or wide mouth, etc.</p> <p>Implementation Date: All comments relevant to the proposed revisions received within 30 days of the issuance of this circular will be considered by the Brake Systems Committee.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: Changes are highlighted with change bars in the attached file which if implemented, would replace M-602 in its entirety.</p>
<p>C-14203 Aug. 23, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Draft S-9502.V2.0 - PTC Track Data Base Exchange, in support of AAR's MSRP - Section K-VI, Railway Data Management and Communications.</p> <p>Summary: The Positive Train Control Interoperability Committee (PTCIC) of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) is publishing DRAFT S-9502.V2.0 PTC Track Data Base Exchange for review and comment.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Also attached to this Circular Letter are Draft Appendix A - ITC Track Data Exchange.xml and Draft Appendix B- ITC Track Data Exchange.xsd for review.</p>	<p>Car Type: Railroads</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: This document is intended to provide a common track data exchange format for use between railroads in support of track data maintenance activities for interoperable PTC operations.</p>
<p>General Information for the Industry</p>		
<p>C-14193 Aug. 1, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: SAVE THE DATE - 2024 North American Rail Mechanical Operations (NARMO) Seminar.</p> <p>Summary: The Association of American Railroads is pleased to announce that the 38th North American Rail Mechanical Operations (NARMO) Seminar will be held as follows: DATE: Monday, May 6 through Thursday, May 9, 2024. LOCATION: Nashville, Tennessee</p> <p>Implementation Date: May 6th through May 9th, 2024.</p>	<p>Car Type: Industry Information</p> <p>Car Owner: Possibly</p> <p>Repair Shop: Possibly</p> <p>Comments: Refer to this circular for additional information</p>

<p>C-14204 Aug. 28, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to AAR MSRP Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003.</p> <p>Summary: This circular is to solicit comments for revisions to MSRP Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Comments received within 30 calendar days of this letter will be considered by the Quality Assurance Committee before final action is taken. The planned release date for this revision is February 2024. Facilities will have six months from the date of release to become compliant to the new revision.</p>	<p>Car Type: Industry Information</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: Changes are highlighted with change bars in the attached draft of M-1003. Chapter 2 has been revised and other sections have clarification and editorial changes. The attached version to this circular, once adopted, will replace M-1003 in its entirety.</p>
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