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**To:** Distribution List

**Subject:** August 2024 AAR Circular Letter Summary

The August 2024 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, specifications, and recommended practices. Circulars are a fee-based service provided by AAR’s MxV Rail, formally known as the 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, go to this link: <https://www.aar.com/standards/circular.php>.

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/or railroad operations.

The following matrix identifies the AAR circular letter number, a summary of the circular, any effective date of a rule, standard, specification, 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@stucki.com](mailto:tom.delafosse@stucki.com).

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
<b>Implemented Changes, Effective the Date of Circular</b>		
C-14405 Aug. 7, 2024	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to Figures 128-B, 154-A, and 154-B – Section 2 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has approved the noted revisions to Section 2 OTLR manual for Figures 128-B, 154-A, and 154-B.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The implementation of these revisions to Section 2 is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the AAR's OTLR manual. Insert the circular attachment for Figures 128-B, 154-A, and 154-B in your copy of Section 2.</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-14406 Aug. 7, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to Figures 108, 109 and 120 – Section 2 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has approved the noted revisions to Section 2 OTLR manual for Figures 108, 109 and 120.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The implementation of these revisions to Section 2 is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the AAR's OTLR manual. Insert the circular attachment for Figures 108, 109 and 120 in your copy of Section 2.</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-14407 Aug. 7, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Notice of Implementation to Archive the loading Figures 25, 27-A, 28 and 29 from Section 2 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has archived loading Figures 25, 27-A, 28 and 29 from Section 2 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules (OTLR) Manual.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> These changes to Sections 2, and 4 OTLR are effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the AAR's OTLR Manual. Insert the circular attachment for Figures 25, 27-A, 28 and 29 in your copy of Section 2.</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-14408 Aug. 7, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to Figures 9-F, 14 and 40-A – Section 2 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has approved the following revisions to Section 2 OTLR manual for Figures 9-F, 14 and 40-A.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The implementation of these revisions to Section 2 is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the AAR's OTLR manual. Insert the circular attachment for Figures 9-F, 14 and 40-A in your copy of Section 2.</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-14410 Aug. 8, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section B, Freight Car Draft Components, New Publications M-902 End-of-Car Energy Management Systems and RP-906 Methodology: Multi-Car Drifting Simulations.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section B, Freight Car Draft Components: Implementation of new publications M-902 End-of-Car Energy Management Systems and RP-906 Methodology: Multi-Car Drifting Simulations.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Specification M-902 and Recommended Practice RP-906, attached, are 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><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If Section B is a required publication for your facility, be sure to download the attachments to this circular and update your manual.</p>
<p>C-14411 Aug. 8, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Specification M-968, Design Requirements for Rigid Open-Top Freight Car Covers, implementation of new specification.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, with implementation of Specification M-968 Design Requirements for Rigid Open-Top Freight Car Covers. This new specification defines the minimum requirements for rigid covers applied to open-top freight cars by a new car builder or as a retrofit. A copy of the specification is attached.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Specification M-968 is now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section C.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Hoppers</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> A copy of the specification is attached to this circular.</p>

<p>C-14412 Aug. 8, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Equipment Advisory EI-0001, Cars Due or Overdue Periodic Air Brake Tests, Escalation to Severity Level XX.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> AAR circular letter C-14173 was issued on June 9, 2023 notifying the industry of changes to Equipment Advisory EI-0001, including notification of cars moving to XX status. The initial plan was to escalate those cars that have not moved in over 2 years and those cars that are more than 2 years overdue. In September 2023, the Arbitration and Rules Committee voted to change the initial focus to those cars that are overdue and have not moved in over 1 year.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> During the Arbitration and Rules Committee meeting September 25-27, 2024 the committee will review EI-0001 and identify the next steps in the escalation of cars to severity level XX to achieve the goal of automatically escalating to severity level XX close to the overdue date.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Currently there are approximately 30,000 cars on EI-0001 that have not moved in over 1 year and are overdue. These cars will be escalated into three batches of approximately 10,000 cars. A Supplement to EI-0001 will be issued on Monday August 19, 2024 adding XX status EI-0001. On Wednesday August 21, 2024 the first batch of cars will be escalated. The second batch will be escalated on Wednesday August 28th and the third batch will be escalated on Wednesday September 4th.</p>
<p>C-14401 Jul. 26, 2024, Issued Aug. 20, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> <b>REVISED:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section S-I, Casting Details, Specification M-210, Side Frame and Bolsters AAR Approved – Purchase and Acceptance, regarding Audit Quality Task Force updates.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The revisions on August 20 are included in the attachment.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Specification M-210 is now implemented and effective immediately.</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> This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section S-I.</p>
<p>C-14413 Aug. 21, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to Figures 17-A, 54-A, and 58-A – Section 5 of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has approved the noted revisions to Section 5 OTLR manual for Figures 17-A, 54-A, and 58-A.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The implementation of these revisions to Section 5 is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the AAR's OTLR manual.</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-14414 Aug. 27, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Revisions to MSRP F, Sensors, S-6101 –Detector Calibration &amp; Validation Requirements / ABD Site Current Validations.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This implementation circular is being released to the industry for revisions to the AAR's Manual of Standards &amp; Recommended Practices (MSRP) Section F – Sensors / Detector Calibration &amp; Validation Requirements / ABD Site Current Validations.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Modifications will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section F.</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 F is a required publication for your facility, be sure to download the attachment with this circular and update your manual.</p>
<p><b>Changes Pending 30-Day (Generally) Comment Period from Date of Circular</b></p>		
<p>C-14403 Aug. 2, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> <u>Draft</u> S-9503.V4.0 ITC Track Data File Format, in support of AAR's MSRP - Section K-VI Railway Data Management and Communications.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> (AAR) is publishing DRAFT S-9503.V4.0 ITC Track Data File Format for review and comment.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Comments regarding the DRAFT may be submitted by using the Comment Form found on the SharePoint site and emailing the completed form to submitcomment@aar.org. The draft document and Comment Form are found at the web site listed in this circular.</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> All SharePoint technical and administrative issues should be directed to Railinc at csc@railinc.com.</p>
<p>C-14404 Aug. 2, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> <u>Draft</u> S-9101.V1.3 Locomotive Electronics System Architecture, in support of AAR' MSRP - Section K-II Locomotive Electronics and Train Consist System Architecture</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> (AAR) is publishing DRAFT S-9101.V1.3 Locomotive Electronics System Architecture for review and comment.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Comments regarding the DRAFT may be submitted by using the Comment Form found on the SharePoint site and emailing the completed form to submitcomment@aar.org. The draft document and Comment Form are found at the web site listed in this circular.</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> All SharePoint technical and administrative issues should be directed to Railinc at csc@railinc.com.</p>

<p>C-14409 Aug. 7, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section S-III, Coupler and Yoke Details, Standards S-102, S-103, and S-163, regarding MSRP references and coupler butt dimensions and tolerances for E60EE, SBE60EE, and SE60EE couplers.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section S-III Standards: S-102: Coupler, E Type, E60EE, S-103: Coupler, E Type, Top and Bottom Shelf, SE60EE, S-163: Coupler, E Type, Bottom Shelf, SBE60EE.</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.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Changes are highlighted with change bars in the attached files to this circular which, if implemented as proposed, would replace the corresponding Standards in their entirety.</p>
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**General Information for the Industry**

**AAR October 2024 Tank Car Committee Meeting**

AAR has released the schedule for its October 2024 Tank Car Committee Meeting, which will be held in Addison, TX on October 16-17 at the Renaissance Dallas Addison Hotel (AAR rate of \$219/night, cutoff date is September 30). Schedule:

Wednesday, October 16

- 8:00am – 12:00pm, Tank Car Executive Committee (private)
- 1:00pm – 1:45pm, NAR Awards
- 2:00pm – 6:00pm, Tank Car Committee Meeting (open)

Thursday, October 17

- 8:00am – approx. 2:00pm, Tank Car Committee Meeting (open)
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm, TCC Executive Committee Recap (private)
- 2:00pm – 6:00pm, Breakout with Regulators (DOT staff and specialists are making themselves available to stakeholders for questions)