

**To:** Distribution List

**Subject:** September 2025 AAR Circular Letter Summary

The September 2025 summary includes the (12) 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@stucki.com](mailto:tom.delafosse@stucki.com).

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
<b>Implemented Changes, Effective the Date of Circular</b>		
C-14610 Sept. 8, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Editorial &amp; Reference Additions to MSRP, Section M, locomotives, and locomotive interchange equipment: Specification M-915 – quality assurance requirements for locomotives and locomotive components.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular is being released to the industry to advise editorial and reference updates made to the M-915 standard.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The intent is to clarify the harmonization of Section M requirements with the locomotive activity codes found in MSRP Section J, Specification M-1003, Appendix A. The technical approval requirements references for the two (2) activity codes will also be added to Appendix A.</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 two (2) activity codes and their appropriate references for technical approval requirements will be added to the 2.0 ACTIVITY CODES paragraph of Specification M-915 quality assurance requirements for locomotives and locomotive components.</p>

<p>C-14613 Sept. 12, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Revisions to MSRP, Section M, Locomotives and Locomotive Interchange Equipment: Standard S-5018 – Dynamic Braking Control.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP) - Section M, Locomotives and Locomotive Interchange Equipment: Standard S-5018 – Dynamic Braking Control.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The revised S-5018 is hereby implemented and effective immediately. A copy of the revised Standard S-5018 is attached to 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> The revised S-5018 will be reflected in the next issue of Section M.</p>
<p>C-14614 Sept. 12, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Canadian Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective October 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Canadian Car Repair Billing Labor Rate calculation for October 1, 2025 is \$257.06 Canadian dollars, an increase of two dollars and sixty-seven cents from the calculation for July 1.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The change will be reflected in the October 1, 2025 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> Nothing additional</p>
<p>C-14615 Sept. 18, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> System Integration Testing Open for CRB Paperless Billing Exceptions Process, Office Manual Rule 112.H.4 &amp; CRB Procedures Manual.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This AAR Circular Letter supplements the three prior letters outlining changes to Office Manual Rule 112.H.4 and the CRB Procedures Manual related to incorporation of paperless billing exceptions into the CRBDX process scheduled for implementation on January 1, 2026: C-14261 issued November 6, 2023, C-14395 issued July 1, 2024, and C-14565 issued May 15, 2025.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Submission and receipt of paperless billing exceptions are scheduled to go live effective Monday, January 5, 2026.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> It is recommended that this information be shared with all Car Repair Billing and IT personnel in your company that work with or are responsible for car repair invoices submitted to and/or received from Railinc's Car Repair Billing Data Exchange (CRBDX).</p>

<p>C-14617 Sept. 19, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section I, Intermodal Equipment Manual, New RP-856, Multi-Car Power Pack Electrical Cable Tie Down.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to MSRP Section I, INTERMODAL EQUIPMENT MANUAL, new RP-856. RP-856 details the recommended practice when power pack generator containers are used to provide electrical power to refrigerated containers while loaded on railcars.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Recommended Practice RP-856, attached, is now implemented and effective immediately.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Intermodal</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section I.</p>
<p>C-14618 Sept. 22, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Revisions to MSRP Section AS, Administrative Standards Supplement, Standard S-046 Definitions of Terms for the AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section AS, Administrative Standards Supplement, Standard S-046, Definitions of Terms for the AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Administrative Standard AS-046 is now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section AS.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> On July 21, 2025, Circular Letter C-14594 was issued to solicit comments.</p>
<p>C-14619 Sept. 30, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP) Section K-I Railway Electronics Systems Architecture and Concepts of Operations, Standard S-9070 - Appendix A.V0.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> S-9070 - Appendix A.V0.0 to ITC Human Machine Interface Standard S-9070.V2.0 defines the human-machine interface standards for the initial version of the OPA software that supports Positive Train Control Office-Locomotive Segment - Interface Control Document (ICD), S-9361.V3.1, which specifies Interface Version 4 (IV4).</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> S-9416.V1.1 was Adopted in 2024 and revised in 2025 and is attached to this Circular in PDF format. S-9416.V1.1 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> The update frequency of the AAR document and the content of this appendix are not the same, therefore the information in the appendix is stored separately from the document. Nevertheless, this information shall be considered part of Standard S-9070.</p>

<p>C-14620 Sept. 30, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP) Section K-V Electronics Environmental Requirements and Systems Management, Standard S-9416.V1.1.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> S-9416.V1.1 describes the minimal set of behaviors that a client must comply with for interfacing with ITC Systems Management. Any Client that communicates over bandwidth constrained channels with the back office should follow this pattern.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> S-9416.V1.1 was Adopted in 2024 and revised in 2025 and is attached to this Circular in PDF format. S-9416.V1.1 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> This document also describes behavior requirements for the OPA and FTS client to be compliant with the PSA-2 security architecture. The PSA-2 security architecture is defined specifically for these bandwidth constrained remote applications.</p>
<p><b>Changes Pending 30-Day (Generally) Comment Period from Date of Circular</b></p>		
<p>C-14612 Sept. 8, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to AAR MSRP Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular is to solicit comments for revisions to MSRP Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003. The attached draft to this circular of M-1003 includes changes that are substantial and editorial in nature. Revisions with intent and clarification are marked with change bars. General editorial changes, including numbering, are not specifically identified.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The planned release date for this revision is February 2026. Facilities will have six months from the date of release to become compliant to the new revision.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> All M-1003 certified facilities need to download these revisions and plan to have them implemented within 6 months of implementation.</p>

<p>C-14616 Sept. 19, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section S-III, Coupler and Yoke Details, Standards S-108, S-155, and S-165, regarding MSRP references and coupler butt dimensions and tolerances for E68DE, SBE68DE, and SE68DE couplers.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section S-III, Standards:</p> <p>S-108: Coupler, E/F Type, E68DE S-155: Coupler, E/F Type, Top and Bottom Shelf, SE68DE S-165: Coupler, E/F Type, Bottom Shelf, SBE68DE.</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. Marked up copies are attached to this circular to download and review.</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> The AAR Coupling System and Truck Castings Committee (CSTCC) is proposing the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved image quality</li> <li>• Added butt dimensions and tolerances</li> <li>• Added references to Standards S-106 and S-173</li> <li>• Added references to M-211 and M-215 for technical approval requirements</li> <li>• Added a note that dimensions without tolerances are to be treated as reference dimensions.</li> </ul>
General Information for the Industry		
<p>C-14609 Sept. 5, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective October 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Car Repair Facility Labor Rate effective October 1, 2025 is \$172.27, a decrease of \$1.51 (or -0.9%) from the labor rate estimated on July 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This will be reflected in the October 1, 2025 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> Wages and weights were re-benchmarked from 2023 to 2024 statistics for the U.S. Class I Railroads; Non-Class Is and Running Repair Agents. The replacement of 2023 data with 2024 data was the primary driver of the change.</p>

<p>C-14611 Sept. 8, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Registration is Now Open for February 2026 AAR Quality Assurance Industry Conference.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The 38th Annual AAR Quality Assurance Industry Conference is the main industry event for anyone interested in understanding more about the AAR Quality Assurance Program.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> AAR Quality Assurance Industry Conference, February 17-19, 2026, St. Petersburg, Florida</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> Refer to this circular for registration details.</p>
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