



Thomas E. DeLafosse
 Vice President
 Salco Products
 Engineering and Technical Services
 1385 101st Street, Suite A
 Lemont, IL 60439
 630.512.7595
 Tom_delafosse@salcoproducts.com

To: Distribution List

Subject: March 2018 AAR Circular Letter Summary

The March 2018 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@salcoproducts.com.

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
Implemented Changes, Effective the Date of Circular		
C-13074 Mar. 1, 2018	<p>Subject: Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section E, Brakes and Brake Equipment, Standard S-4010, Slack Adjuster, Tension – Inspection, Testing, Removal, and Application, Figure Update to Include All Slack Adjuster Manufacturers.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section E, Standard S-4010, Slack Adjuster, Tension – Inspection, Testing, Removal, and Application.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Standard S-4010 is now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section E.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: If Section E is a required publication for your location be sure to update S-4010 in your manual.</p>
C-13075 Mar. 2, 2018	<p>Subject: Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details,</p>	<p>Car Type: Box Cars</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p>

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
	<p>Standard S-213 Side Door and Door Frames, Boxcar – Plug Type.</p> <p>Summary: this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-213, Side Door and Door Frames, Boxcar – Plug Type.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Standard S-213 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>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: If Section C is a required publication for your location be sure to update S-213 in your manual.</p>
C-13078 Mar. 6, 2018	<p>Subject: Revised Implementation Date: Revisions to MSRP Section E, Brakes and Brake Equipment, Standard S-4027, Automated Single-Car Test Procedure, Conventional Brake Equipment-Design and Performance Requirements.</p> <p>Summary: Due to additional revisions that are underway, the Brake Systems Committee is issuing an extension to the implementation period in circular letter C-12443 and referenced in circular letter C-12777.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Software implementation must now be completed by January 1, 2019.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: Shops should note this extended compliance date.</p>
C-13079 Mar. 9, 2018	<p>Subject: Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-2034, Car Builder Certification, Updated Requirements/Definitions for Car Builders, Subcontracting, Subassemblies, and Inspections.</p> <p>Summary: The purpose of this Circular Letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-2034, Car Builder Certification. The AAR Equipment Engineering Committee (EEC) has updated the standard for several reasons noted within this circular.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Revised Standard S-2034, attached, 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>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: Yes</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: If Section C is a required publication for your location, be sure to update it with the revised S-2034.</p>
C-13080 Mar. 10, 2018	<p>Subject: Implementation of New Specification in MSRP Section D: Trucks and Truck Details, Specification M-980, Friction Wedge Performance for Railcars, Dynamic Wear Test.</p> <p>Summary: This Circular Letter is to notify the industry of Implementation of a new specification in MSRP Section D, Trucks and Truck Details:</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p>

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
	<p>Specification M-980, Friction Wedge Performance for Railcars, Dynamic Wear Test.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Specification M-980, attached, is now implemented and effective immediately. This specification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section D</p>	<p>Comments: If Section D is a required publication for your location, be sure to update it with the revised M-980.</p>
C-13081 Mar. 13, 2018	<p>Subject: Implementation of Editorial Revisions to MSRP Section B, Freight Car Draft Components, Unit Condition Indicator requirements for Cushioning Devices, M-921A Sliding Sill, M-921C Reconditioned, M-921H UCI.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to notify the industry of editorial revisions to MSRP Section B Freight Car Draft Components relative to Unit Condition Indicators (UCIs). Three specifications were edited and the detail of those edits are noted within this circular.</p> <p>Implementation Date: The revised Specifications M-921A, M-921C, and M-921H, all 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>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 it with the revised M-921A, M-921C, and M-921H.</p>
C-13082 Mar. 16, 2018	<p>Subject: Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section G-II, Wheel and Axle Manual, S-659, Wheel Storage, and RP-632, 2 Ton Limit for Wheel Mounting.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section G-II, Wheel and Axle Manual, S-659, and RP-632, revision to wheel storage, and revision of the 2 ton limit for wheel mounting when using computer controlled wheel press recorders.</p> <p>Implementation Date: S-659 and RP-632 are now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section G-II.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: If Section G-II is a required publication for your location, be sure to update it with the revised S-659 and RP-632.</p>
C-13083 Mar. 16, 2018	<p>Subject: Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section I, Intermodal Equipment Manual, M-933, Addition of Intermodal Trailer and Container Securement Manual.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section I, Intermodal Equipment Manual, M-933, to add the Intermodal Trailer and Container Securement Manual.</p> <p>Implementation Date: M-933 is now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be</p>	<p>Car Type: Intermodal</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: If Section I is a required publication for your location, be sure to update it with the revised M-933.</p>

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
	incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section I.	
C-13085 Mar. 29, 2018	<p>Subject: Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section D, Trucks and Truck Details, Standard S-3016, Spring—Groups for Free, Unrestricted Interchange for 286,000 GRL Cars (M-976 and S-286 Approved Trucks), Updates to Table 1.1.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section D, Standard S-3016, Spring Groups for Free, Unrestricted Interchange for 286,000 GRL Cars (M-976 and S-286 Approved Trucks).</p> <p>Implementation Date: Standard S-3016 is now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section D.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: If Section D is a required publication for your location, be sure to update your copy with the revised S-3016 standard.</p>
Changes Pending 30-Day Comment Period from Date of Circular		
C-13076 Mar. 2, 2018	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-2044, Safety Appliance Requirements for Freight Cars, New Appendices for Tank Cars.</p> <p>Summary: The AAR Safety Appliance Task Force is proposing two new appendices to Standard S-2044, Safety Appliance Requirements for Freight Cars: Appendix E3, Safety Appliances for Tank Cars with Side Ladders and Low Side-Mounted Hand Brakes Appendix E4, Safety Appliances for Tank Cars with End Ladders and Low Side-Mounted Hand Brakes.</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 Safety Appliance Task Force prior to taking action.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: Yes</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: In the proposed appendices, the hand brake is mounted on the side of the tank car and can be operated from the ground or from the sill step. Application is similar to that of Appendix D2 for well and spine cars with side-mounted hand brakes. Existing Appendices E1 and E2 for tank cars with hand brakes mounted on the end of the car would remain in effect.</p> <p>The current published version of Standard S-2044 was implemented by Circular Letter C-12611 dated April 20, 2016. FRA safety appliance regulations and AAR standards continue to apply to existing cars, including cars being repaired or modified.</p>
C-13077 Mar. 6, 2018	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section D, Trucks and Truck Details, Specification M-976 Truck Performance for Rail Cars. Addition of Traction Ratio Test.</p> <p>Summary: The purpose of this circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to MSRP Section D, Trucks and Truck Details, Specification M-976 Truck Performance for Rail Cars.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: The curve and tangent rolling resistance test in paragraph 4.1.2.2 has been replaced with a new test method, the “traction ratio” test. Changes are highlighted with change bars in the attached draft of M-976.</p>

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
	<p>Implementation Date: All comments received within 30 days of the issuance of this circular will be considered by the EEC prior to taking action.</p>	
General Information for the Industry		
<p>C-13084 Mar. 29, 2018</p>	<p>Subject: Car Repair Facility Labor Rate - Effective April 1, 2018.</p> <p>Summary: The Car Repair Facility Labor Rate, effective April 1, 2018 is \$136.35, an increase of 7.1 percent (\$9.06) from the calculation for January 1, 2018.</p> <p>Implementation Date: The increase was caused by a new national labor agreement for the major union involved in car repair, the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen. The new agreement has two retroactive wage increases, which caused back pay amounts.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight – AAR Labor Rate</p> <p>Car Owner: Yes</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: The back pay amounts will be amortized over four quarters and then removed from the Labor Rate.</p>