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**To:** Distribution List  
**Subject:** September 2020 AAR Circular Letter Summary

The September 2020 summary includes the (17) 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](mailto: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-13641 Sept. 2, 2020	<p><b>Subject:</b> <u>U. S.</u> - Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective October 1, 2020.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Car Repair Facility Labor Rate, effective October 1, 2020 is \$138.05. This represents a decrease of 2.1% (\$2.95) from the calculation for July 1, 2020.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The change will be reflected in the October 1, 2020 release of the AAR Office Manual.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> AAR Labor Rate - Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Two changes were made to the calculation for October: 1) wages were re-benchmarked from 2018 to 2019 wage statistics, and 2) individual railroad weights were updated using foreign car billing for 2019.</p>

<p>C-13642 Sept. 2, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> <b>Canadian</b> - Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective October 1, 2020.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Canadian Car Repair Facility Labor Rate, effective October 1, 2020 is \$182.26 CAD. This represents a decrease of 1.24% (\$2.29 CAD) from the calculation for July 1, 2020.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The change will be reflected in the July 1, 2020 release of the Canadian Price Master.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> AAR Labor Rate - Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Three changes were made to the calculation for October: 1) wages were re-benchmarked from 2018 to 2019 wage statistics, 2) individual railroad weights were updated using foreign car billing for 2019, and 3) the currency conversion factor was updated for the October calculation. This caused the decrease in the Canadian Labor Rate.</p>
<p>C-13643 Sept. 3, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-2056, Clearance Plate Diagrams for Interchange Service: New diagram, Plate N.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-2056, Clearance Plate Diagrams for Interchange Service. The AAR Clearance Task Force and the Equipment Engineering Committee are implementing a new diagram, Plate N. Plate N is essentially a modified version of Plate F that includes one additional inch in height as well as more room in the upper corners of the diagram.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Standard S-2056, attached, is now implemented and effective immediately.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible, but no expected</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If Section C is a required publication for your facility, be sure to download the pdf attachment to this circular and update your copy of Standard S-2056 with this new revision.</p>
<p>C-13644 Sept. 4, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to Appendix A of Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Association of American Railroads (AAR) Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) has collaborated with other technical committees and approved the noted revisions within this circular to Appendix A of Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The implementation of these revisions is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of Section J, Specification for Quality Assurance M-1003.</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> If you are an M-1003 certified company be sure to download the Appendix A attachment to this circular and replace the old version with this revised one in your copy of Section J.</p>

<p>C-13645 Sept. 4, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section S-III, Coupler and Yoke Details, Standards S-176, S-177, S-178, S-179, and S-180, Regarding EOC Yokes.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to the noted standards included in MSRP Section S-III, Coupler and Yoke Details. Effective on January 1, 2021, new EOC yokes produced to these standards must be made from M-201 Grade E steel.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The attached standards are 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> These modifications will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section S-III. Update your copy of Section S-III if this is a required MSRP for your location.</p>
<p>C-13646 Sept. 9, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section N, Specification M-951, Portable Bridge Plates for Multi-Level Auto Rack Cars.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Specially Equipped Freight Car Committee is implementing revisions to Specification M-951, Section 3.7 and Figure 3.2 and an Appendix B addition for Specifications on an Offset from Center Portable Bridge Plate. The addition to Section 3.7 and Figure 3.2 is to give an overhead view of nominal dimensions for standard bridge plates, and Appendix B is to provide requirements for an offset from center bridge plate.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The changes to MSRP Section N, Specification M-970 are now implemented and effective immediately and will be incorporated in the next issue of MSRP Section N.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Auto Racks</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If Section N is a required publication for your facility, be sure to download the revised M-951 and update your manual.</p>
<p>C-13647 Sept. 16, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standards S-226 and S-227 regarding design approval of running boards, end platforms, and brake steps.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standards S-226 Running Board, End Platform, and Brake Step – Design Approval, and S-227 Running Boards, Alternate – at Sides of Double-Stack Car Wells.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Standards S-226 and S-227, that are attached to this circular, are now implemented and effective immediately.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If Section C is a required publication for your facility, be sure to download the revised S-226 and S-227 and update your manual.</p>

<p>C-13648 Sept. 17, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section G, Wheels and Axles, M-107/M-208, and S-658, and MSRP Section G-II, Wheel and Axle Manual, S-658, and RP-633, AAR-2A Standard Profile, AMFLEET Axle Relief Grooves, and Wheel Seat Measurement.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section G, Wheels and Axles, and MSRP Section G-II, Wheel and Axle Manual, with changes as noted within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> M-107/M-208, S-669, S-658, and RP-633 are 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> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If Section G and Section G-II are required publications for your facility, be sure to update your manuals with the revised M-107/M-208, S-658 and RP-633.</p>
<p>C-13649 Sept. 17, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Editorial Revisions to MSRP Section H, Journal Bearings and Lubrication, M-942 Appendix E, AAR-Approved Roller Bearing Grease and Seal Combinations – Update.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to notify the industry of editorial revisions to MSRP Section H, Journal Bearings and Lubrication, M-942 Journal Roller Bearing Grease, Appendix E AAR-Approved Roller Bearing Grease and Seal Combinations. Appendix E has been updated to include new conditionally approved grease and seal combinations.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The revised Specification M-942, attached, 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> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If Section H is a required publication for your facility, be sure to update your manual with the revised M-942 attached to this circular.</p>
<p>C-13653 Sept. 24, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revised MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, 2020.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular announces a new edition of Section C is now available.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> All previously implemented standards and specifications are included in this print of Section C.</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> The manual can be purchased online at the following website: <a href="http://www.aarpublishings.com">www.aarpublishings.com</a>.</p>
<p>C-13654 Sept. 29, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revised MSRP Section G, Wheels and Axles, 2020.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR WABL Committee announces a new revision of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section G, Wheels and Axles.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> All previously implemented standards and specifications are included in this print of Section G.</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> If Section G is a required publication for your facility, be sure to order the new edition of Section G.</p>

<p>C-13655 Sept. 30, 2020</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-9080.V2.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Standard S-9080.V2.0 was Adopted in 2020 and is attached to this Circular in PDF format.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Immediately. Insert the Circular in your copy of the MSRP Section K-I</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> Standard S-9080.V2.0 was Adopted in 2020 and is attached to this Circular in PDF format.</p>
<p><b>Changes Pending 30-Day Comment Period from Date of Circular</b></p>		
<p>C-13639 Sept. 1, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section S-III, Coupler and Yoke Details, Standards S-102, S-103, S-107, S-154, S-163, and S-164, Standard E-Type Couplers.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section S-III, Standards S-102, S-103, S-107, S-154, S-163, and S-164, regarding making reduced slack E-type couplers standard and removing non-reduced slack couplers as standard.</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 prior to acting.</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> Changes are highlighted with change bars in the attached files to this circular. Once issued, the attached files will replace the respective standards in their entirety.</p>
<p>C-13640 Sept. 1, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section S-III, Coupler and Yoke Details, Standards S-108, S-109, S-155, S-165, S-170, and S-172, Standard E/F-Type Couplers.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section S-III, Standards S-108, S-109, S-155, S-165, S-170, and S-172, regarding making reduced slack E/F-type couplers standard and removing non-reduced slack couplers as standard.</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 prior to acting.</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> Changes are highlighted with change bars in the attached files to this circular. Once issued, the attached files will replace the respective standards in their entirety.</p>

<p>C-13650 Sept. 17, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section H-II, Roller Bearing Manual, Standard S-723 Rule 3, Vented Backing Rings and Maintenance Specifications.</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 Rule 3 noted within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> All comments received within 30 days of the issuance of this circular will be considered by the WABL Committee prior to acting on the revisions which are the subject of the comments.</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> The proposed removal of vented backing rings has a maximum one-year industry cost of \$3.6 million and 15-year net present cost of \$18.2 million. These costs are below the thresholds prescribed in AAR Standard S-050.</p>
<p>C-13651 Sept. 17, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section H, Journal Bearings and Lubrication, M-934 and S-703: Bearing Placement Requirement, Inner Ring (Cone) Marking, and Freight Cap Screws.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit comments for proposed revisions to MSRP Section H, Journal Bearings and Lubrication, with changes indicated with change bars in the attached draft to this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> All comments received within 30 days of the issuance of this circular will be considered by the WABL Committee prior to acting on the revisions which are the subject of the comments.</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> The proposed revisions to M-934 and S-703 do not have costs associated with implementation.</p>
<p>C-13652 Sept. 18, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> DRAFT Standard S-9080.V2.0 - Positive Train Control Interoperability Committee Policy, is available for review and comment. In support of AAR's MSRP, Section K-I, Railway Electronics Systems Architecture and Concepts of Operations</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Positive Train Control Committee (PTCC) of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) is publishing DRAFT Standard S-9080.V2.0 - Positive Train Control Interoperability Committee Policy for review and comment.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> In order to provide time for review and comment, this document will have a 7-day comment period. The time period will begin with the date posted above.</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> SharePoint access can be <a href="http://www.railinc.com">www.railinc.com</a>. Individuals and organizations who have a company ID may access the SharePoint site directly. Those who want to comment and need access to the SharePoint site, Railinc., instructions to join are in the attached document.</p>