

To: Distribution List

Subject: December 2023 AAR Circular Letter Summary

The December 2023 summary includes the (11) 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-14283 Dec. 4, 2023	<p>Subject: Revisions to Field Manual, Rule 59.E.</p> <p>Summary: The Arbitration and Rules Committee a proposal as advanced by the Equipment Engineering Committee to revise Field Manual Rule 59.E.11.b was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is described within this circular.</p> <p>Implementation Date: The change will be included in the January 1, 2024 release of the Field Manual.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: N/A</p>

<p>C-14285 Dec. 12, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective January 1, 2024.</p> <p>Summary: The Car Repair Facility Labor Rate, effective January 1, 2024 is \$161.67, a decrease of \$26.88 (or 14.26%) from the labor rate estimated on October 1, 2023.</p> <p>Implementation Date: This will be reflected in the January 1, 2024 release of the AAR Office Manual.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: Possible</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: The large decrease in the rate is primarily due to the removal of back payments from the index after four quarters.</p>
<p>C-14287 Dec. 15, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Informational Circular, WARNING – Journal Oil AYG (all year grade) Marketed as Compliant to A RETIRED AAR Standard That Is No Longer Supported.</p> <p>Summary: Beware of companies marketing and selling railroad journal bearing lubricants as “AAR (Association of American Railroads) approved” 963 Oil, AAR M-963-Journal Oil AYG (all year grade) and other M-963 descriptors (M-963-84, Journal Guard, Journal Oil).</p> <p>Implementation Date: Refer to the equipment's OEM manual for requirements and recommendations to select the correct lubricant(s) and applications. Usage of non-OEM recommended lubricants may cause damage and operating failures to the equipment.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: Possible</p> <p>Comments: The M-963/M-964-84 specification referenced has been retired and archived for over three decades. The AAR no longer publishes the specification nor supports the performance claims of the vendors.</p>
<p>C-14288 Dec. 19, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Canadian Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective January 1, 2024.</p> <p>Summary: The Canadian Car Repair Billing Labor Rate calculation for January 1, 2024 is \$242.16 CAD, an increase of seven dollars and seventeen cents from the calculation for October 1. For comparison purposes, this converts to about \$179.31 in U.S. dollars.</p> <p>Implementation Date: The change will be reflected in the January 1, 2024 release of the Canadian Price Master.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: Possible</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: The overhead study utilized a three-year average with 2020 through 2022 Canadian rates.</p>
<p>C-14289 Dec. 20, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section N, Specification M-970, Condition-Based Certification of Multi-Level Auto Rack Cars.</p> <p>Summary: The Specially Equipped Freight Car Committee is implementing revisions to Specification M-970, Section 2.2.3. This revision pertains to removing tire guides from “A” deck of multi-level equipment.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Specification M-970 are now implemented and effective immediately and will be incorporated in the next issue of MSRP Section N.</p>	<p>Car Type: Autorack/Multi-Level</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: If Section N is a required publication for your location, be sure to download the attachment to this circular and update your copy.</p>

<p>C-14290 Dec. 20, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Revision to MSRP Section N, Specification M-992, Designated Satellite Shop Repair for Multi-Level Auto Rack Cars.</p> <p>Summary: The Specially Equipped Freight Car Committee has implemented revisions to Specification M-992, Section 2.1.3 – Rack Inspection and Repair. This revision pertains to removing tire guides from “A” deck of multi-level equipment.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Changes to MSRP Section N, Specification M-992 are now implemented and effective immediately and will be incorporated in the next issue of MSRP Section N.</p>	<p>Car Type: Autorack/Multi-Level</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: If Section N is a required publication for your location, be sure to download the attachment to this circular and update your copy.</p>
<p>C-14291 Dec. 20, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Revision to MSRP Section N, Specification M-950, Universal Wide-Body Tri-Level Fully Enclosed Auto Rack Car (Low Deck).</p> <p>Summary: The Specially Equipped Freight Car Committee is implementing revisions to Specification M-950, Section 4.5, 4.5.1 – Decks and Section 8.2 Tie-Down System. These revisions to Section 4.5, 4.5.1 and 8.2 pertain to removing tire guides from “A” deck of multi-level equipment.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Changes to MSRP Section N, Specification M-992 are now implemented and effective immediately and will be incorporated in the next issue of MSRP Section N.</p>	<p>Car Type: Autorack/Multi-Level</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: If Section N is a required publication for your location, be sure to download the attachment to this circular and update your copy.</p>
<p>C-14292 Dec. 20, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Revision to MSRP Section N, Specification M-950A, Universal Wide-Body Bi-Level Fully Enclosed Auto Rack Car.</p> <p>Summary: The Specially Equipped Freight Car Committee implemented revisions to Specification M-950A, Section 4.4 and 4.4.1 – Decks. These revisions to Section 4.4 and 4.4.1 pertain to removing tire guides from “A” deck of multi-level equipment.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Changes to MSRP Section N, Specification M-992 are now implemented and will be incorporated in the next issue of MSRP Section N.</p>	<p>Car Type: Autorack/Multi-Level</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: If Section N is a required publication for your location, be sure to download the attachment to this circular and update your copy.</p>

Changes Pending 30-Day (Generally) Comment Period from Date of Circular		
<p>C-14286 Dec. 15, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: DRAFT S-9355 Appendix A V1.0 Class C Messaging Class C Multicast Message Groups, In support of AAR's MSRP - Section K-IV, Office Architecture and Railroad Electronics Messaging.</p> <p>Summary: The Railroad Electronics Standards Committee (RESC) of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) is publishing DRAFT S-9355 Appendix A V1.0 Class C Messaging Class C Multicast Message Groups for review and comment.</p> <p>Implementation Date: In order to provide time for the review and comments, this document will have a 30-day comment period.</p>	<p>Car Type: Railroads</p> <p>Car Owner: No</p> <p>Repair Shop: No</p> <p>Comments: Interested parties should refer to this circular to download and review this draft and provide any comments you may have.</p>
<p>C-14293 Dec. 31, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: Solicitation of Comments for Revisions to MSRP Section S, Casting Details, Specification M-212, Couplers and Yokes, Secondhand—Classification and Reconditioning Procedure, including introduction of M-212A for coupler/draft system related parts.</p> <p>Summary: This circular letter is to solicit comments for revisions proposed to Section S, Specification M-212, Specification M-212, Couplers and Yokes, Secondhand—Classification and Reconditioning Procedure, including introduction of M-212A for secondhand classification of coupler parts, knuckles, vertical connection pins, follower blocks and draft keys.</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 CSTCC.</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 files. The attached files would replace M-212 in its entirety and implement new specification, M-212A.</p>
General Information for the Industry		
<p>C-14284 Dec. 7, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: 2024 AAR Quality Assurance Auditor & Industry Conference Update.</p> <p>Summary: Conference Website Updates include Keynote Speakers, Tentative Conference Agenda, Conference Sponsorship Deadlines, Workshop Information, Early Registration and Social Networking Event.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Questions should be directed to either Don Guillen or Mark Rusovick with the AAR Quality Assurance Committee at QA@aar.com.</p>	<p>Car Type: Industry Information</p> <p>Car Owner: Possible</p> <p>Repair Shop: Possible</p> <p>Comments: Visit the website at the link below for registration information and additional updates.</p>

<p>C-14294 Dec. 31, 2023</p>	<p>Subject: January 2024 Field and Office Manuals, Summary of Comments, and Implementation Details.</p> <p>Summary: In October and November 2023, several Circular Letters soliciting comments on the proposed Rule changes were issued. In addition, several letters were issued that advised of approved changes that would become effective on January 1, 2024. Shown within this circular is a recap of the circular letters seeking industry comment, an indication of comments received (if any), consideration and implementation details.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Unless otherwise noted, the Rule changes are for the Field Manual.</p>	<p>Car Type: Freight</p> <p>Car Owner: Possibly</p> <p>Repair Shop: Yes</p> <p>Comments: Refer to this circular for the specific circulars incorporated into the 2024 Office and Field Manuals.</p>
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