

**To:** Distribution List

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

The December 2024 summary includes the (16) 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](mailto:tom.delafosse@salcoproducts.com).

Circular No.	Subject and Summary	Impact Statement
<b>Implemented Changes, Effective the Date of Circular</b>		
C-14483 Dec. 1, 2024	<p><b>Subject:</b> Revisions to Field Manual Rule 46.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee advanced a proposal by the Equipment Engineering Committee to revise Field Manual Rule 21, to add Armsted Rail 1771 adapter pads to this rule.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> These changes will be included in the January 1, 2025 release of the Field Manual.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible replacement option.</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Possible replacement option.</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Rule 46 Table 46.3.</p>

<p>C-14485 Dec. 1, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Revisions to Field &amp; Office Manuals, Various Rules, Removing Stencil Verbiage.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee advanced a proposal by the Equipment Engineering Committee to revise various rules in the Field and Office Manuals to clean up references to stencils, was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is identified within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> These changes will be included in the January 1, 2025 release of the Field Manual.</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> Revisions are editorial in nature.</p>
<p>C-14490 Dec. 10, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Correction to the Office Manual Price Matrix Retroactive to July 1, 2024, Job Code 1463.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Material pricing errors for Job Code 1463 were found and the correct pricing will be included in the upcoming January 1, 2025 AAR Office Manual Price Matrix &amp; Price Master. Job Code 1463 – Thrall/Davis/Triax Brake Actuator Assembly Complete for the billing period between July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 may be in error and should be reviewed.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> For all parties rendering bills from July 1, 2024 until December 31, 2024 for Job Code 1463, this is your authority to request counter billing from the car owner in the case of under recovery in accordance with AAR Office Manual Rule 112.D.2. Also, see Office Manual Rule 112.E.7 for CBA time limitations.</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> For ease of rendering counter bills, a chart is attached which reflects the current and corrected prices for Job Code 1463, as well as the amount for CBA.</p>
<p>C-14491 Dec. 11, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Office Manual Rule 107, 2024 Cost Factor.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The AAR Car Repair Billing Committee has approved the 2024 Cost Factor of 298 to be used in 2025, a 7.58% increase from 2023.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The new Cost Factor will be published in Rule 107 of the January 2025 Office Manual and is effective January 1, 2025.</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> This calculation is based on the UMLER Original Cost Index from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. No voluntary supplemental data was used for this year.</p>

<p>C-14492 Dec. 11, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective January 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Car Repair Facility Labor Rate effective January 1, 2025 is \$170.81, a decrease of \$1.15 (or 0.67%) from the labor rate estimated on October 1, 2024.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This will be reflected in the January 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> The following changes took place this quarter: Updated health &amp; welfare rates, Updated payroll taxes, new overhead study; and new composition of Shortline and Running Repair Agent (RRA) participants.</p>
<p>C-14493 Dec. 11, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Canadian Car Repair Facility Labor Rate – Effective January 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Canadian Car Repair Billing Labor Rate calculation for January 1, 2025 is \$248.60 CAD (Two hundred and forty-eight Canadian dollars and sixty cents), a decrease of eighty-five cents from the calculation for October 1.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The change will be reflected in the January 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> The overhead study utilized a three-year average with 2021 through 2023 Canadian rates.</p>
<p>CPC-1427 Dec. 16, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Recommended Railroad Operating Practices for Transportation of Hazardous Materials.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Based on definitions provided by PHMSA, the following HMRCs and Proper Shipping Names will be added to OT-55-R Appendix 1 / Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) and High-Level Radioactive Waste (HLRW).</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> December 16, 2024</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Tank</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> N/A</p>

<p>C-14494 Dec. 17, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section K-I Railway Electronics System Architecture and Concept of Operations, Standard S-9070.V2.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> S-9070.V2.0 - ITC Human Machine Interface specifies the human-machine interface standards implemented for the Interoperable Train Control (ITC) Positive Train Control (PTC) system.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> S-9070.V2.0 was Adopted in 2012 and last Revised in 2024 and is attached to this circular in PDF format. S-9070.V2.0 will be incorporated into the next issue of the MSRP Section K-I Railway Electronics System Architecture and Concept of Operations, 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> The standard addresses the general layout of the crew operation screens, softkey labeling, and audible alerts. The standard does not include the underlying logic of the Onboard PTC Application (OPA) implementation.</p>
<p>C-14495 Dec. 17, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP), Section K-I Railway Electronics System Architecture and Concept of Operations, Standard S-9051.V1.0.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> S-9051.V1.0 ITC Onboard PTC Application (OPA) Requirements defines the subsystem requirements of the OPA implemented for the ITC PTC system. This document contains OPA requirements and describes them, to the extent needed, for interoperable functionality.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> S-9051.V1.0 was Adopted in 2024 and is attached to this circular in PDF format. S-9051.V1.0 will be incorporated into the next issue of the MSRP Section K-I Railway Electronics System Architecture and Concept of Operations, 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> The standard does not include implementation-specific details.</p>
<p>C-14497 Dec. 18, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> 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 has implemented revisions to Specification M-951, Appendix B, Offset from Center Portable Bridge Plates - Requirements. The Committee has changed the language in Section 2.1 and 3.1 to include both a 2" and 4" offset from center bridge plate. In addition, M-951, Section 8.5 was added to sunset the low-capacity bridge plate.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The changes to MSRP Section N, Specification M-951 are now implemented and effective immediately and will be incorporated in the next issue of MSRP Section N. Insert the circular attachment into your copy of MSRP Section N.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Autoracks</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If your location maintains Section N, be sure to update it with the revised M-951 attached to this circular.</p>

<p>C-14498 Dec. 19, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Revisions to MSRP Section C, Car Construction Fundamentals and Details, Standard S-2045, Remote Monitoring Equipment, revision of requirements.</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-2045, Remote Monitoring Equipment. The standard has been updated for three purposes that are defined within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Revised Standard S-2045, attached to this circular and is 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> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> No</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> If Section C is a required publication for your location, be sure to download the updated S-2045 and update your copy.</p>
<p>C-14499 Dec. 23, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> January 2025 Field and Office Manuals, Summary of Comments and Implementation Details.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Several letters were issued that advised of approved changes that would become effective on January 1, 2025 that are detailed within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The various proposals as issued in the listed letters, with the changes noted, stand approved and will be included in the January 2025 AAR Interchange Rule revisions.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Possible refresher training resource.</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Refer to this circular for the specifics.</p>
<p><b>Changes Pending 30-Day (Generally) Comment Period from Date of Circular</b></p>		
<p>C-14487 Dec. 6, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments: New addition to MSRP F, Sensors. S-6101A, Detector Validation Table.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Equipment Health Monitoring Committee (EHMC) is requesting comment on a proposed new stand-alone document to serve as the central repository of all industry-approved detector validations across all detector types where the industry has agreed to share data. The goal is to simplify committee recordkeeping and provide a more user-friendly reference for the industry.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The comment period will remain open for thirty (30) days from the date of the issuance of this circular. All written comments received will be considered by EHMC prior to final action on the proposed additions.</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> Interested parties should refer to this circular and download the draft copy of S-6101A and provide comments as requested.</p>

<p>C-14488 Dec. 6, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Draft S-9051.V1.0 ITC OPA Requirements, in support of AAR's MSRP - Section K-1 Railway Electronics Systems Architecture and Concepts of Operations.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Positive Train Control Interoperability Committee (PTCIC) of the Association of the American Railroads (AAR) is publishing DRAFT S-9051.V1.0 ITC OPA Requirements for review and comment. The OPA Standard defines the subsystem requirements of the Onboard PTC Application implemented for the ITC PTC system.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> In order to provide time for review and comments, this document will have a <b>7-day</b> comment period. The time will begin with the posted date.</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> Interested parties should refer to this circular and download the draft copy of S-9051 v1.0 and provide comments as requested within the 7-day comment period.</p>
<p>C-14489 Dec. 6, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Draft S-9070.V2.0 ITC Human Machine Interface, in support of AAR's MSRP - Section K-1 Railway Electronics Systems Architecture and Concepts of Operations.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Positive Train Control Interoperability Committee (PTCIC) of the Association of the American Railroads (AAR) is publishing DRAFT S-9070.V2.0 ITC Human Machine Interface for review and comment. The 'ITC Human Machine Interface Standard' specifies the human-machine interface standards implemented for the Interoperable Train Control (ITC) Positive Train Control (PTC) system.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> In order to provide time for review and comments, this document will have a <b>7-day</b> comment period. The time will begin with the posted date.</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> Interested parties should refer to this circular and download the draft copy of S-9070 v1.0 and provide comments as requested within the 7-day comment period.</p>
<p><b>General Information for the Industry</b></p>		
<p>C-14486 Dec. 2, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> 2025 Field and Office Manuals of the AAR Interchange Rules - Preorder Available Now.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The 2025 editions of the Field and Office Manuals of the AAR Interchange Rules are scheduled to be available beginning January 2, 2025. Manuals may now be preordered online at <a href="https://aarpublications.com/field-and-office-manuals.html">https://aarpublications.com/field-and-office-manuals.html</a>. Orders will require a credit card for payment.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Both the Field and Office Manuals are available in paper or in electronic format.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Industry Information</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Possible</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Electronic versions are restricted from printing.</p>

<p>C-14496 Dec. 17, 2024</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> 2025 AAR Quality Assurance Industry Conference Update.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Association of American Railroads (AAR) Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) is pleased to announce the several updates regarding the 2025 Quality Assurance Industry Conference noted within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> Be sure to visit the website and save the conference link for more information and regular updates:</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> Interested parties should go to the web link and register if you plan on attending.</p>
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