

**To:** Distribution List

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

The May 2025 summary includes the (15) 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-14562 May 1, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Editorial Revisions to MSRP Section S-II, Truck Details and Casting Codes, Standard S-392, Truck – Design Drawings, regarding addition of Strato drawings and removal of obsolete MD-500 form.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to notify the industry of editorial revisions to MSRP S-II, TRUCK DETAILS AND CASTING CODES, Standard S-392, Truck – Design Drawings.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The revised S-392 is now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section S-II.</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 MSRP S-II is a required publication for your facility, be sure to download the revised S-392 and update your copy.</p>

C-14566 May 16, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Field Manual Rule 3.E.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Proposed NEW Field Manual Rule 3.E.23: 23. No labor shall be charged, and billing repair data is not required when testing to determine that the air brakes apply and remain applied until a release is initiated per Rule 3.B.10.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>
C-14567 May 16, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Field Manual Rule 4.E.17.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Proposed Field Manual Rule 4.E.17: 17. When pipe bracket studs are replaced and not associated with the application of a service and/or emergency portion or 4-pressure access plate, use Job Code 4410 or Job Code 4412, Rule 74, with car part code CT.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>
C-14568 May 16, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Field Manual Rules 15-18, MD reporting.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee, a proposal as advance by the Coupling System and Truck Castings Committee to revise Field Manual Rules 15-18, was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is identified within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>
C-14569 May 16, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Field Manual Rules 15, 17 and 18, Identification and handling of cracks and hot tears.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee, a proposal as advance by the Coupling System and Truck Castings Committee to revise Field Manual Rules 15, 17 and 18, was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is identified within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>

<p>C-14570 May 16, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Field Manual Rule 17.B, Correct Repair Chart.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee, a proposal as advanced by the Coupling System and Truck Castings Committee to revise Field Manual Rule 17.B, was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is identified within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>
<p>C-14572 May 16, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Field Manual Rule 41.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee, a proposal as advanced by the WABL Committee to revise Field Manual Rule 41.B, was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is identified within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>
<p>C-14573 May 16, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Field Manual Rules 47 and 48, MD-500.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee, a proposal as advance by the Coupling System and Truck Castings Committee to revise Field Manual Rules 47 and 48, was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is identified within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>
<p>C-14574 May 16, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Office Manual Rule 121, Arbitration and Rules Committee Structure.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee, a proposal to revise Office Manual Rule 121, to revise the membership makeup of the Arbitration and Rules Committee, was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is identified within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>

C-14575 May 16, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Revisions to Office Manual Rule 122.C</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee, a proposal to revise Office Manual Rule 122.C, was reviewed and approved. The entire text of the revision is identified within this circular.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> This change will be included in the July 1, 2025 updates to the Field Manual.</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> N/A</p>
C-14576 May 16, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Implementation of Revisions to MSRP, Section M, Locomotives and Locomotive Interchange Equipment: Standard S-5018 – Dynamic Braking Control.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP) - Section M, 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.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Locomotives</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> No</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> The revised S-5018 will be reflected in the next issue of Section M. Insert the revised S-5018 into your copy of MSRP Section M.</p>
<b>Changes Pending 30-Day (Generally) Comment Period from Date of Circular</b>		
C-14563 May 6, 2025	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments, Revisions to Car Repair Billing Procedures Manual, Errors Codes 8S &amp; 8U, Appendix Y.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> At the March 2025 meeting of the Car Repair Billing Committee, the committee advanced two initiatives to update the CRB Procedures Manual. The Car Repair Billing Committee approved an initiative to move error codes 8S &amp; 8U into mandatory rejects by rolling them into Error Codes 8P &amp; 8R effective January 1, 2026 (previously planned to become mandatory rejects effective July 1, 2025).</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> All comments received will be reviewed and considered by the Car Repair Billing Committee, with a targeted implementation date of July 1, 2025.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b> Freight</p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b> Yes</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.</p>

<p>C-14565 May 15, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Solicitation of Comments, CRB Paperless Billing Exceptions Implementation Timeline Revision, Revisions to Office Manual Rule 112 &amp; CRB Procedures Manual, Record Format Type 3 Revision.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This Circular Letter supplements and supersedes the following AAR Circular Letters: C-14261 issued on November 6, 2023, and C-14395 issued on July 1, 2024.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> The Arbitration and Rules Committee, the committee approved a proposal advanced by the Car Repair Billing Committee to incorporate Counter Billing Authority (CBA) into the paperless billing exceptions process. In order to allow time for development of the inclusion of CBAs, the committee also approved a revised implementation timeline for mandatory paperless billing exceptions forward to January 1, 2026.</p>	<p><b>Car Type:</b></p> <p><b>Car Owner:</b></p> <p><b>Repair Shop:</b></p> <p><b>Comments:</b> IMPORTANT NOTE: 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.</p>
General Information for the Industry		
<p>C-14561 May 1, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Informational Circular, Wheel Plate Damage Associated with Service Failures - April 30, 2025.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The North American railroads have experienced several catastrophic wheel failures due to broken plate (WMC 83) resulting in derailments. These recent broken plate wheel failures are directly attributed to mechanical damage, impact damage, welding arc strikes, welding deposits, or torch cut spatter.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> There are service locations where a wheelset might be in proximity to welding or torch cutting. These places include, but are not limited to repair shops, line of road repairs, and scrap yards for return as purchased core wheelsets. Extreme care must be taken to ensure that no arc strikes, weld spatter, or torch cut spatter occurs on the wheel. If a wheel is subjected to arc strike, welding deposits, or torch cut spatter, the wheel must be identified as scrap.</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> Extreme care must be taken during the handling, transport, loading, and unloading of wheels and wheelsets. If any metal-to-metal contact has occurred on the wheel plate between the hub and rim, the wheel must be identified as scrap.</p>

<p>C-14564 May 12, 2025</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Soliciting Participants for Inclusion in the 2026 CRB Survey Process.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This circular letter is to solicit Non-Class I Railroad and Running Repair Agent participants for inclusion in the 2026 Car Repair Billing (CRB) survey process.</p> <p><b>Implementation Date:</b> In order for new participants' data to be included in the CRB labor and material calculations for 2026, each of the three individual surveys must be completed and submitted to the AAR by the deadlines identified below:</p> <p>Base Wage Rate Survey – submitted to AAR by July 31, 2025 Overhead Study Survey – submitted to AAR by September 8, 2025, Material Price Survey – submitted to AAR by November 10, 2025. The deadline for notifying the AAR of your company's intention to participate is June 15, 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> If your company is interested in participating in the survey process, please complete the attached contact form and submit to the undersigned at billp@aar.org. The AAR will then reach out to the specified contacts to begin the data collection process.</p>
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