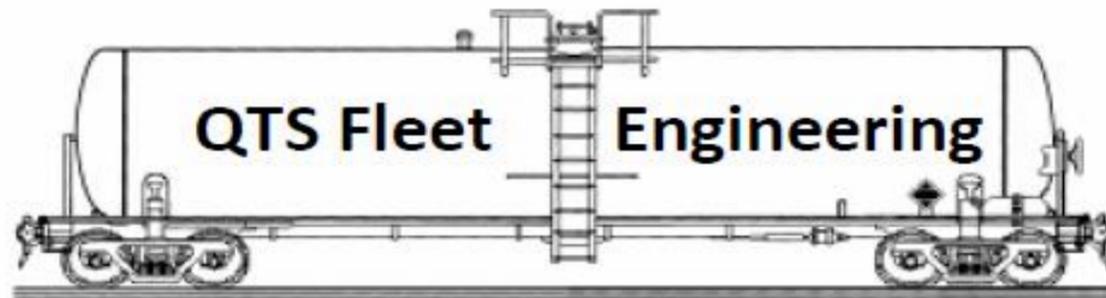




QTS Engineering Circular Summary

For the month of March 2018



This document is provided as a reference for circulars released by the AAR during the month stated above. To view a copy of a certain circular, please contact your QTS representative, and reference the number of the circular. If you have any questions regarding the content of a circular please contact QTS Engineering (Tom Leiby at [TBLeiby@qts.com](mailto:TBLEiby@qts.com) or Kevin Bailey at KTBailey@qts.com).

Box Cars				
Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/2/2018	C-13075	Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section C, CAR CONSTRUCTION FUNDAMENTALS AND DETAILS, Standard S-213 Side Door and Door Frames, Boxcar – Plug Type	Comments were received and considered by the Equipment Engineering Committee (EEC). The EEC determined that the detail on conformance being based on car built dates was not necessary, so that detail was removed. The compliance date was moved back to March 1, 2018, based on the final release date of this Standard. It should be noted that compliance for doors manufactured after this date will require lifting lug installation on all doors.	3/2/2018

Draft Gear				
Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/13/2018	C-13081	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	The purpose of 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).	3/13/2018

Industry Info				
Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/29/2018	C-13084	Car Repair Facility Labor Rate - Effective April 1, 2018	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. 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. The back pay amounts will be amortized over four quarters and then removed from the Labor Rate.	4/1/2018

Brakes				
Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/1/2018	C-13074	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	The purpose of this circular letter is to notify the industry of revisions to Section E, Standard S-4010, Slack Adjuster, Tension – Inspection, Testing, Removal, and Application. On January 11, 2018, Circular Letter C-13052 was issued to solicit comments. Comments were received and considered by the Brake Systems Committee. Editorial changes to Figure 2.1 were made. A note was added below 2.4.2 reminding users to install the slack adjuster per the manufacturer instructions.	3/1/2018
3/6/2018	C-13078	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	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. Software implementation must now be completed by January 1, 2019.	3/6/2018

Car Construction				
Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/9/2018	C-13079	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	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.	3/9/2018

Comments

Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/2/2018	C-13076	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	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. 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.	4/2/2018
3/6/2018	C-13077	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	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. 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. Please note that the draft includes reference to two Technology Digests published by the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (report numbers TD-16-017 and TD-17-004) as part of the Strategic Research Initiative program conducted for the AAR. The traction ratio test guidelines were taken from these reports, so the reports were included as attachments to this circular for information. The Equipment Engineering Committee has requested that the final version of M-976 include no reference to these reports.	4/6/2018

Intermodal

Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/16/2018	C-13083	Implementation of Revisions to MSRP Section I, INTERMODAL EQUIPMENT MANUAL, M-933, Addition of Intermodal Trailer and Container Securement Manual	The purpose of 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. M-933 is now implemented and effective immediately. This modification will be incorporated in the next issue of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, Section I.	3/16/2018

Trucks

Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/10/2018	C-13080	Implementation of New Specification in MSRP Section D: TRUCKS AND TRUCK DETAILS, Specification M-980, Friction Wedge Performance for Railcars, Dynamic Wear Test	The purpose of this Circular Letter is to notify the industry of Implementation of a new specification in MSRP Section D, TRUCKS AND TRUCK DETAILS: Specification M-980, Friction Wedge Performance for Railcars, Dynamic Wear Test. On October 25, 2017, Circular Letter C-12970 was issued to solicit comments. Comments were received and considered by the Equipment Engineering Committee. Edits were made with assistance from approved wedge manufacturers and test labs that have been involved in testing in the past.	3/10/2018
3/29/2018	C-13085	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	On December 26, 2017, Circular Letter C-13042 was issued to solicit comments. Comments were received and considered by the CSTCC. Information for another approved M-976 truck was received and included in the revised table. Additionally, a correction was made to the NSC Q4 wedge numbers. 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.	3/29/2018

Wheels

Date Released	Number	Subject	Summary	Implementation Date
3/16/2018	C-13082	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	The purpose of 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.	3/16/2018