

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS CIRCULARS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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RULES GOVERNING ASSIGNMENT OF REPORTING MARKS
AND MECHANICAL DESIGNATIONS

TO THE MEMBERS

I
Private Tank Cars

(a) Reporting marks will be assigned to the owner or lessee by the Secretary, Business Services, for use on private tank cars (this being a type of equipment railroads do not hold themselves responsible to furnish), provided the applicant subscribes to the AAR Mechanical Interchange Rules.

(b) New, rebuilt or secondhand tank cars will be authorized for transportation service only after it has been determined that a Certificate of Construction is on file with the Bureau of Explosives and the Secretary, AAR Technical Services Division, in compliance with Section 179.5 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(c) All applications involving secondhand cars must include certification by the buyer and/or seller on Form 88-Series in compliance with Rule 88, Section C. of the Office Manual, AAR Mechanical Interchange Rules.

(d) To receive the applicable mileage rates as provided in Freight Tariff RIC 6007-Series, Section 1, Item 195, the private tank car owner, following the assignment of reporting marks, must comply with Freight Tariff RIC 6007-Series, Section 1, Item 180, Paragraph 2, which requires that all tank cars must be registered in the Universal Machine Language Equipment Register, in the format prescribed in the UMLER Data Specification Manual. This information will be published in *The Official Railway Equipment Register*. The applicable mileage rates will be published in the AAR's Freight Car Mileage Master List (micro-fiche) and/or the Tank Car Directory (micro-fiche).

(e) Private tank cars must be assigned the mechanical designation "T" when placed in service as new, rebuilt, secondhand, or after modification. The mechanical designation cannot be changed unless there are physical changes to cars as a result of modification, or unless there is a change in the mechanical designation definition as published in the Technical Services Division's Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, *The Official Railway Equipment Register*, or Freight Tariff RIC 6007-Series, that better describes the physical characteristics than the mechanical designation originally assigned. Mechanical designations in the UMLER file cannot be changed until the provisions of this rule are complied with to reflect the newly assigned mechanical designation.

If there is a question or dispute about the proper mechanical designation on the part of an owner or user, it should be directed to the Secretary, Technical Services Division, Association of American Railroads, Washington, D. C., who will refer the question for decision to the Car Engineering Committee of the Technical Services Division.

If the decision of the Car Engineering Committee is unsatisfactory to the owner or user that raised the issue, the matter may be appealed to the Mechanical Management Committee, Technical Services Division. If the decision of the Technical Services Division's Mechanical Management Committee is unsatisfactory, the owner or user may appeal to the Customer Satisfaction General Committee.

(f) Mechanical Designations will be assigned to the car owner or lessee by the Secretary, Technical Services Division, Association of American Railroads, upon written application.

II
Private Cars Other Than Tank Cars

(a) Reporting marks will be assigned to the owner or lessee by the Secretary, Business Services, for use on other than tank cars, provided the applicant maintains a subscription to the AAR Interchange Rules and properly maintains the registration of all cars bearing such reporting marks in the Universal Machine Language Equipment Register (UMLER). (The railroads' use of private cars other than tank cars is not required unless railroad provided cars are not available.)

(b) All applications involving secondhand cars must include certification of the buyer and/or seller on Form 88-Series in compliance with Rule 88, Section C. of the Office Manual, AAR Mechanical Interchange Rules.

(c) Applications for the use of private cars should state the name of the owner or lessee, specific car number(s) and the station(s) and industry(s) at which loads are intended to originate and the name of the originating line haul carrier(s). Applicants will transmit the applications to the proposed originating carrier(s) who will subsequently notify the applicant of the approval or disapproval of the application. Application approval for shipper provided cars cannot be denied by the carrier(s) except for reasons of safety, mechanical factors or inadequate storage space. Application approval does not commit the approving carrier(s) to use the applicants' cars. All applications must be submitted on FORM OT-5, a sample of which is attached as Appendix A.

(d) After applications are approved, the cars may be used by the owner or lessee for the origination of traffic only at specified station(s) and industry(s) on the carrier(s) identified in Paragraph II (c). If the owner or lessee desires to use the cars for the origination of traffic at additional stations or at stations on some other carriers, a new application must be submitted to the originating carrier and such applications will be handled as provided for in Paragraph II (c).

(e) After reporting marks have been assigned, they may be used on any cars that meet the requirements of the AAR Mechanical Interchange Rules and which are properly registered in UMLER.

(f) To receive the applicable mileage rates as provided in Freight Tariff RIC 6007-Series, Section 2, Items 620 and 621, or other tariffs as provided by individual railroads, the private car owner, following the assignment of reporting marks, must comply with Freight Tariff RIC 6007-Series, Section 2, Item 605, Paragraph 5, or other tariffs as provided by individual railroads, which requires that all private cars must be registered in the Universal Machine Language Equipment Register, in the format prescribed in the UMLER Data Specification Manual. This information will be published in *The Official Railway Equipment Register*. The applicable mileage rates will be published in the AAR's Freight Car Mileage Master List (micro-fiche).

NOTE: (1) Reporting marks assigned to private car owners or lessee must consist of four letters, the last of which must be an "X."

NOTE: (2) The provisions of Section II, Paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) are not applicable to railroad-owned or controlled cars.

(g) Private cars must be assigned the mechanical designation that best describes the physical characteristics when placed in service as new, rebuilt, or secondhand, or after modification. A mechanical designation cannot be changed unless there are physical changes to the car as result

of modification, or unless there is a change in the mechanical designation definition as published in the Technical Services Division's Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices, *The Official Railway Equipment Register*, or Freight Tariff RIC 6007-Series, or other applicable tariffs, that better describes the physical characteristics than the mechanical designation originally assigned. Mechanical designations in the UMLER file cannot be changed until the provisions of this rule are complied with to reflect the newly assigned mechanical designations.

If there is a question or dispute about the proper mechanical designation on the part of an owner or user, it should be directed to the Secretary, Technical Services Division, Association of American Railroads, Washington, D. C., who will refer the question for decision to the Car Engineering Committee of the Technical Services Division.

If the decision of the Car Engineering Committee is unsatisfactory to the owner or user that raised the issue, the matter may be appealed to the Mechanical Management Committee, Technical Services Division. If the decision of the Technical Services Division's Mechanical Management Committee is unsatisfactory, the owner or user may appeal to the Customer Satisfaction General Committee.

(h) Mechanical designations will be assigned to the car owner or lessee by the Secretary, Technical Services Division, Association of American Railroads, upon written application.

III
Other Than Railroad Owned or Controlled Trailers (See Note)

(a) All requests for assignment of reporting marks for equipment contemplated for service other than railroad owned or controlled trailers must be submitted in writing to the Secretary, Business Services, Association of American Railroads.

(b) Reporting marks will be assigned by the Secretary, Business Services, for use on other than railroad-owned or controlled trailers, provided the applicant subscribes to the AAR Interchange Rules for Trailer/Container-On-Flat-Car (TOFC/COFC) Service. Following assignment, the provisions of Section 3-Reporting Marks and Numbering System, Code of Trailer and Container Service Rules shall be complied with.

(c) Following the assignment of reporting marks all trailers must be registered in the Universal Machine Language Equipment Register in the format prescribed in the UMLER Data Specification Manual. These trailers are published in the AAR's TOFC/COFC Master List (micro-fiche). In addition, the owner must register all trailers in *The Official Intermodal Equipment Register*.

IV
Railroad Cars

(a) Reporting marks will be assigned by the Secretary, Business Services, for use on all railroad-owned or controlled cars placed into service in the United States, Canada and Mexico, provided the applicant subscribes to the AAR Mechanical Interchange Rules and the AAR Car Service and Car Hire Rules-Freight.

(b) New or secondhand tank cars will be authorized for transportation service only after it has been determined that a Certificate of Construction is on file with the Bureau of Explosives and the Secretary, AAR, Technical Services Division, in compliance with Section 179.5 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(c) All applications involving secondhand cars must include certification of the buyer and/or seller on Form 88-Series in compliance with Rule 88, Section C. of the Office Manual, AAR Mechanical Interchange Rules. (d) To receive the applicable rates as provided in Car Hire Rule 1, Code of Car Hire Rules and Interpretations-Freight, railroads or railroad-controlled companies, following the assignment of reporting marks, must register all cars in the Universal Machine Language Equipment Register, in the format prescribed in the UMLER Data Specification Manual. This information will be published in *The Official Railway Equipment Register*. The applicable rates, as provided in Car Hire Rule 1, Code of Car Hire Rules and Interpretations-Freight, are published in the AAR's Car Hire Master List (micro-fiche).

(e) Freight cars must be assigned the mechanical designation that best describes the physical characteristics when placed in service as new, rebuilt, or secondhand, or after modification. Except as permitted in Note (1) of this Section, mechanical designation cannot be changed unless there are physical changes to cars as a result of modification, or unless there is a change in the mechanical designation definition as published in the Technical Services Division's Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices or *The Official Railway Equipment Register*, that better describes the physical characteristics than the mechanical designation originally assigned. Mechanical designations in the UMLER file cannot be changed until the provisions of this rule are complied with to reflect the newly assigned mechanical designation.

NOTE: (1) The mechanical designation may be changed to a different designation without physical modification subject to the following conditions:

(a) Cars must be physically suitable for the service contemplated by the newly assigned mechanical designation definition.

(b) All stenciling on the exterior indicating that car is specially equipped with DF or other special loading fixtures should be obliterated if inapplicable to the new mechanical designation.

(c) After cars are reclassified to a new mechanical designation, they shall not again be reclassified for a period of 18 months from the date the mechanical designation was changed in the UMLER file, unless authorized by the Car Engineering Committee.

If there is a question or dispute about the proper mechanical designation on the part of an owner or user, it should be directed to the Secretary, Technical Services Division, Association of American Railroads, Washington, D. C., who will refer the question for decision to the Car Engineering Committee of the Technical Services Division.

If the decision of the Car Engineering Committee is unsatisfactory to the owner or user that raised the issue, the matter may be appealed to the Mechanical Management Committee, Technical Services Division. If the decision of the Technical Services Division's Mechanical Management Committee is unsatisfactory, the owner or user may appeal to the Mechanical Management Committee or the Customer Satisfaction General Committee, Customer Operations Division, as the case may be.

V
Railroad Trailers and Containers

(a) Prior to assignment of reporting marks the applicant must furnish evidence to the Secretary, Business Services, confirming that:

- (1) A serviceable TOFC facility located on the applicant railroad is in existence.
- (2) The applicant railroad can accept trailers delivered on flat cars in rail interchange service.

(b) Reporting marks will be assigned by the Secretary, Business Services, for use on all railroad-owned or controlled trailers and containers, provided the applicant subscribes to the AAR Interchange Rules for Trailer/Container-On-Flat-Car (TOFC/COFC) Service and the Code of Trailer and Container Service and Reporting Rules.