James P. Grady
Assistant Vice President - Technical Services

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Wednesday, December 02, 2015

C-12523

Circular Letter

Subject:Implementation Editorial Changes to Figure 37 PANEL PRODUCTS, PACKAGED 6 FT LONG OR OVER, 40 IN. HIGH OR LESS—CENTER A-FRAME FLATCARS, WITH CABLE TIE-DOWNS – Section 5 AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR)

To:MEMBERS AND PRIVATE CAR OWNERS **File Number:LR 2.17.6**

The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has approved the editorial revisions to **Figure 37 PANEL PRODUCTS, PACKAGED 6 FT LONG OR OVER, 40 IN. HIGH OR LESS CENTER A-FRAME FLATCARS, WITH CABLE TIE-DOWNS – Section 5 AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR)**

Existing Rules:

Item E: Cables: 3/8-in. diameter, 8,800-lb minimum breaking strength. Cable assemblies must be equipped with edge protectors. Winch assemblies must be equipped with a device to maintain tension. Prior to tightening, there must be a minimum of 2 1/2 wraps of cable around the winch drum. When practical, all cables must be used and must be free of kinks and tangles. Tension to be applied with the use of an 18-in. bar or 3/8-in. ratchet. Cables are to be secured to A-frame in slot nearest to top of package.

Note 9: Top packages on either side of a void space greater than 4 feet must be protected using Item G. A top layer package is defined as any package with no packages loaded directly above. A package that is not "completely" covered by a package above is also considered a top package and is required to have a compression package band applied. (See Detail A and B). Where customer requirements mandate the use of package wrap, the compression package band must be applied over the package wrap.

Rule Changes:

Item E: Cables: 3/8-in. diameter, 8,800-lb minimum breaking strength. Cable assemblies must be equipped with edge protectors. Winch assemblies must be equipped with a device to maintain tension. Prior to tightening, there must be a minimum of 2 1/2 wraps of cable around the winch drum. When practical, all cables must be used and must be free of kinks and tangles. Tension to be applied with the use of an 18-in. bar or 3/8-in. ratchet. Cables are to be secured to A-frame in slot nearest to top of package (See Note 9).

Note 9: In lieu of Item F "Top Corner Caps", top packages that do not accommodate two Item H "Cables" may be unitized by one Type 1A, Grade 7 Strap encircling packages on both sides of the car and secured with an approved ladder buckle. Straps are to be positioned 1 ft. from the ends of the packages they are unitizing.

Sketch 1 Detail A and B: Sketch 1 Detail A and B have been removed

Sketch 2: Sketch 2 has been removed

The implementation of this revision to Figure 37, Section 5 is effective immediately and will be included in the next edition of the AAR's OTLR Manual. In the interim, please insert the circular attachment for Figure 54-Bin your copy Section 5 and be governed accordingly.

Carriers are asked to ensure that copies of this circular letter are distributed to all concerned shippers and railroad personnel for their attention and guidance.

Questions should be directed to Mr. Travis Wolgram, Manager-AAR Loading Rules and Damage Prevention, TTCI, P.O. Box 11130, 55500 DOT Road, Pueblo CO 81001. Or email to travis_wolgram@aar.com.

ON BEHALF OF THE OPEN TOP LOADING RULES COMMITTEE

Sincerely,
James P. Grady
Assistant Vice President - Technical Services
202-639-2141 202-639-2930 Email:jgrady@aar.org

Safety and Operations
Association of American Railroads
425 Third Street, SW, Suite 1000, Washington D.C. 20024

Attachments
section5p1.fig 37.20151119.pdf