James P. Grady
Assistant Vice President -
Technical Services

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

C-12545

Circular Letter

Subject:AAR Safety Alert Improperly Secured Tie-down Cables on Centerbeam Cars

To:EVERYONE **File Number:OTLR Safety Alerts**

Railroads have observed an alarming trend in empty centerbeam railcars moving with improperly secured or loose cables. This is in violation of General Rule 22.4.3- Section 1 Open Top Loading Rules. This rule states: **All cable must be properly secured per manufacturer's recommendations prior to car movement**.

As an example of the extent of this problem, one carrier reported 43 bad-ordered empty centerbeam cars for this reason over a two week period. Railroads have experienced derailments and hazardous conditions due to dragging and improperly secured centerbeam cables. AAR is urging railroads to inform shippers and consignees of the importance of properly securing all wire cables to the centerbeam car after product has been unloaded. Failure to comply with General Rule 22.43, above, may result in carriers rejecting the cars, consignees being charged for costs associated with reworking the improperly wound cables on empty centerbeam cars, personal injuries, and derailments. It is recommended that all concerned take the time to review your loading/unloading practices to insure that centerbeam cables are properly secured before rail cars are shipped. To assist in informing your consignees, proper procedures for securing wire cables to centerbeam cars after unloading has been included as an attachment.

Railroads are further directed to raise awareness of this issue with your local mechanical and transportation crews and to have railcars with improperly secured cables bad ordered and properly secured.

If there are any questions please contact the appropriate Open Top Loading Rules manager listed below for further assistance.

BNSF Railway	Scott.VanGosen@bnsf.com
Canadian National	Austin.Despain@cn.ca
Canadian Pacific	Greg_Rosval@cpr.ca
CSX Transportation	Mitchell_McDonald@csx.com
Norfolk Southern	Lindy.Pope@nscorp.com
Union Pacific	balichty@up.com
Kansas City Southern	tperry@kcsouthern.com

Additionally, questions may be directed to 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.

Sincerely,
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Safety and Operations
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Attachments

instructions for proper centerbeam cable securement.pdf