

Ron Hynes

Assistant Vice President, Technical Services



June 29, 2020

[C-13605]

Circular Letter

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

To: ALL SUBSCRIBERS

File Number:1-GEN-114

This safety alert is being reissued due to ongoing and recurring non-compliance to rules established by AAR Open Top Loading Rules (OTLR) Committee concerning securement of cables on empty centerbeam cars. This safety concern was previously addressed in November 2018 via circular C-13227 and in December 2015 via C-12545.

A number of small derailments have occurred in rail yards caused by cables from centerbeam flatcars that are not attached properly after unloading. In addition, unsecured cables hanging from the car as the car is moved through yards and other facilities can create a hazard in walking areas that are in close proximity. The unloader may leave the cables loose when they return the car. This is in violation of General Rule 22.4.3- Section 1 Open Top Loading Rules.

This rule states: **All cables must be properly secured per manufacturer's recommendations prior to car movement.**

This has been a recurring problem first brought to light in December of 2015. Carriers are urged to ensure that empty cars being returned by the consignee have their cables properly secured to the railcar. Attached for your reference is a document illustrating both proper and improper cable securement practices. In the event that a car is offered for interchange without the cables properly secured, the car should be rejected out of concern for safety.

Questions should be directed to Mr. Rama Maram, Manager – AAR Open Top Loading Rules at TTCI via email at rama_maram@aar.com (mailto:rama_maram@aar.com) or otlr@aar.com (mailto:otlr@aar.com).

ON BEHALF OF THE OPEN TOP LOADING RULES COMMITTEE

Sincerely,

Ron Hynes

Assistant Vice President, Technical Services

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

Attachment(s):

Center Beam Safety Cable Securement_Final.pdf
(https://my.aar.org/myAAR/ePubs/Circulars/Circular Attachments/Center Beam Safety Cable Securement_Final.pdf)

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