

AAR Open Top Loading Rules require that centerbeam cables be properly secured for the empty movement of the railcar. Reference Section 1, General Rule 22.4.3.

22.4.3 All cables must be properly secured per manufacturer's recommendation prior to car movement (Fig. 22.5).



Fig. 22.5 Properly secured cable for empty movement of railcar

Properly Secured Centerbeam Cables:



Improperly Secured Centerbeam cables:



This method is unacceptable, the chain lengths are not engaged in the centerbeam keyhole slots.

Attach the cable to the centerbeam post's securement slot and take up the slack on the winch drum.



The approach in this photo is unacceptable because the receiver wrapped excess cable around the post first. While the cable is secured, any slack in the cable can result in premature wear and failure.

Attach the cable to the centerbeam post's securement slot and take up the slack on the winch drum.

Improperly Secured Centerbeam cables:



Loose cables are not acceptable, engage the ratchet pawl and take up the slack on the winch drum.



In this photo, loose dunnage was left on the railcar by the unloader. Although not stenciled on every railcar, the above reads,

“REMOVE ALL LOOSE DUNNAGE” and
“WARNING DO NOT MOVE CAR UNLESS ALL
THE TIE DOWNS RE-SECURED IN KEYSLOTS
AND WINCHES ARE TIGHTENED”

Improperly Secured Centerbeam cables:



Loose cables are unacceptable, engage the ratchet pawl and take up the slack on the winch drum.



Improperly wound cable on drum assembly.

Improperly Secured Centerbeam cables:



Only one cable per keyhole attachment slot is allowed.



Improper application. Insert the chain into the centerbeam keyhole and tighten down the cable on the drum. Another option is attaching the chain to keyhole slot on the opposite side of the railcars permanent riser using the cable hanger to support the cable. This method takes up more slack in the cable before tightening the pawl.

Improperly Secured Centerbeam cables:



Unacceptable method, centerbeam cables are wrapped around centerbeam uprights and not properly secured.