James P. Grady
Assistant Vice President - Technical Services

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Monday, March 21, 2016

C-12584

Circular Letter

Subject:Editorial changes to General Rule 3.4.2, Ballast– Section 1 AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).

To:MEMBERS AND PRIVATE CAR OWNERS **File Number:LR 1-GEN-86**

The AAR's Open Top Loading Rules Committee (OTLRC) has approved changes to General Rule 3.4.2, Ballast– Section 1 AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual (OTLR).

Previous Rule:
3.4.2 Ballast
3.4.2.1 If the weight of a load cannot be equally distributed across a car, suitable ballast must be used to equalize the weight. The counterweight ballast must be secured in accordance with General Rule 5. The weight of the counterweight and its securement must be considered part of the total load weight and meet proper load distribution requirements
New Rule:
3.4.2 Ballast
3.4.2.1 If the weight of a load cannot be equally distributed across a car, suitable ballast must be used to equalize the weight. The counterweight ballast must be secured in accordance with General Rule 5. The weight of the counterweight and its securement must be considered part of the total load weight and meet proper load distribution requirements. The structural integrity of the counterweight/ballast, regardless of its construction material, must be sufficient to withstand securement to the car and rail forces as defined in General Rule 5.3.

The implementation of these changes to General Rule 3.4.2, Section 1 are 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 Rule 3.4.2 in your copy of Section 1 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
section1part1.pp9-10.20160223.pdf