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[ C-10529 ]

Circular Letter

**Subject: Expansion of the AAR Specification M-1003 Quality Assurance Program: Additional Locomotive Components**

To: MEMBERS AND PRIVATE CAR OWNERS

File Number:QA-1.5-3/07

Components are added to the list of commodities requiring M-1003 Certification by the AAR Technical Services Working Committee (TSWC), usually at the request of the various AAR Technical Committees.

A number of major locomotive components were added to AAR M-1003 in 1995 and 1996. More groups were added to the program in 2000.

The Locomotive Committee has determined that manufacturers of certain additional locomotive components should be required to obtain and maintain an AAR Specification M-1003 Quality Assurance Certification. The AAR Technical Services Working Committee approved the request for expansion of the industry's Quality Assurance Program to include manufacturers of Locomotive Batteries, Alternators, Suspension Bearings, Traction Motor Bearings, Roots Blowers, Gear Cases, Diodes, Engine Protectors, Filters, Gauges, Bull and Pinion Gears, Grid Resistors, Electronic Handbrakes, Liners, Rings, Pistons, Rods, Modules and Starter Motors.

Inclusion of the additional components will complement the ongoing efforts to expand the body of mandatory AAR technical standards and specifications (MSRP Section M, Part 2) for unrestricted locomotive interchange service and position the railroads (& locomotive lessors) for an industry Locomotive Repair Billing system with standard inspection and running repair reporting---all with the goal of enhanced asset utilization.

The implementation of AAR Specification M-1003 was originally announced in Circular Letter C-7081, dated September 10, 1985. Details of the continuing implementation and expansion of the AAR Specification M-1003, Quality Assurance Program to include this new group are herein provided.

Manufacturers of Locomotive Batteries, Alternators, Suspension Bearings, Traction Motor Bearings, Roots Blowers, Gear Cases, Diodes, Engine Protectors, Filters, Gauges, Bull and Pinion Gears, Grid Resistors, Electronic Handbrakes, Liners, Rings, Pistons, Rods, Modules and Starter Motors are hereby invited to send application for M-1003 Certification to:

QA Program Coordinator  
TTCI  
P.O. Box 11130  
Pueblo, Colorado, 81001

The application can be found in AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP) Section J, Specification M-1003 pages J-24 and J-25. Should you need to purchase a copy of MSRP Section J please contact AAR Publications toll free at 877-999-8824.

Upon receipt of the application by the QA Program Coordinator, additional information concerning the certification process will be forwarded to each applicant. Facilities filing formal application by August 1, 2007 will be assured "common group" status, that is, certification will be simultaneously awarded to all qualifying facilities in that group, provided all necessary information is furnished by the applicant in a timely fashion.

Dependent upon the progress of requisite site audits, the schedule for completion of certification requirements is targeted for October 1, 2007.

Questions regarding application requirements or procedures should be directed to Joy Cooke at (719) 584-0715 or qa@aar.com.

Sincerely,

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