



ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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September 10, 1985

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SUBJECT: Quality Assurance Program Implementation

TO: Members and Private Car Owners

Gentlemen:

QA1-4
(c-7081)

The Mechanical Division of the Association of American Railroads announces the establishment of a Quality Assurance Program with implementation commencing September 1, 1985. Administration of the program will be carried out under a Manager - Quality Assurance reporting to the Director - Technical Committees in accordance with Specification M-1003 (Section J) of the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices.

The key element of the program is AAR certification of quality assurance practices and procedures currently in place or implemented by manufacturers and reconditioners of critical freight car components. Certification will be awarded to manufacturers in compliance with Specification M-1003 following a series of steps that include application, review of manufacturer's quality assurance manual, and an in plant audit.

The following car components are currently included in the Quality Assurance Program; and have been grouped as shown to facilitate program implementation:

Group A

A-1 New Journal Roller Bearings
A-2 Reconditioned Journal Roller Bearings

Group B

Truck Side Frames
Truck Bolsters
Couplers
Yokes
Knuckles
Truck Springs
Draft Sills

Group C

Center Plates
Draft Gears

Group D

Wheels
Axles

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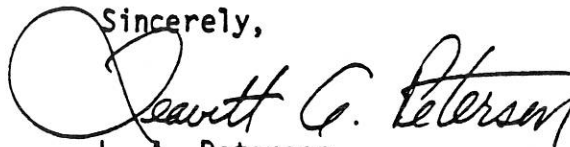
Manufacturers of components in Group A-1 (New Journal Roller Bearings) only are invited to advise the Director-Technical Committees in writing of their intent to make application for Quality Assurance Certification under the provisions of Specification M-1003.

Upon receipt of a letter of intent, an application form and additional information concerning the certification process will be provided to each potential applicant. Manufacturers filing formal applications accompanied by payment of the required \$500.00 fee by December 1, 1985 will be assured common status; that is, certification will be awarded to qualifying manufacturers in that group simultaneously, provided all necessary information is furnished by the applicant in a timely fashion.

Schedules for Groups A-2, B, C and D will be developed as the program progresses and circular letter notice will be given well in advance of application deadline dates.

The Quality Assurance Program is designed to assure that critical components used in the manufacture, reconditioning, and repair of interchange freight cars are consistently and reliably produced in accordance with applicable specifications. Your support and cooperation will be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,



L. A. Peterson