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RAILROADS**

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November 10, 1986

QA-13
(c-7149)

SUBJECT: Quality Assurance Certification Guidelines

TO: Members and Private Car Owners

Gentlemen:

In order to provide all interested parties with a perspective for planning purposes, here are the latest specifics for progression of the Quality Assurance Program. As you will recall, the implementation of the program was originally announced in circular letter c-7081, dated September 10, 1985.

The following supplementary material outlines the quality program schedule and defines the procedure for an applicant to achieve common group status certification.

- 1) Achievement of common group status by any component supplier is predicated on that supplier having successfully completed all quality assurance certification requirements within a pre-determined 12 month period, specifically designated for suppliers of like components. Group A-1 applicants will be certified by December 1, 1986. The date for Group A-2 applicants is to be published prior to December 31, 1986.

Beginning with Group B components, one year certification windows for components covered in the Quality Assurance Program are established as follows:

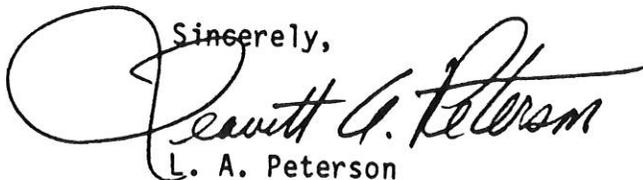
Group B-1: November 1, 1986 - October 31, 1987
Group B-2: December 1, 1986 - November 30, 1987
Group C-1: July 1, 1987 - June 30, 1988
Group C-2: August 1, 1987 - July 31, 1988
Group D-1: February 1, 1988 - January 31, 1989
Group D-2: September 1, 1988 - August 31, 1989

For your convenience, a listing of components included within each grouping is attached. Any adjustments to the above periods that may be required will be announced well in advance of the revised starting date to afford ample notice to all affected applicants.

- 2) All applicants meeting common group status requirements will be identified by publication of an initial common group registry at the end of the stipulated one year certification period. The registry will include two classifications: certification granted and certification pending.
- 3) Certification granted is defined as the classification applying to those applicants who have fully complied with the requirements of M-1003 within the twelve month certification period. This classification will remain in effect for a period of three years, as determined by the certification date, subject to interim compliance audits.
- 4) Certification pending is defined as the classification which is composed of those applicants who have completed the initial in plant audit within the twelve month certification period, but have not satisfactorily resolved applicable adverse audit findings. This classification is in effect for a period not to exceed ninety days from the publication date of the initial common group registry. Applicants in a certification pending status who fail to complete all requirements within the ninety day period will be dropped from the final common group registry, which will be published ninety days after publication of the initial registry. The final common group registry will list only those applicants who have been fully certified under the Quality Assurance Program.
- 5) Milestone dates will be identified in correspondence directed to each applying company to assist in pacing progress towards completion of all requirements in the twelve month period.
- 6) It is the responsibility of each applying company to exercise proper control of their own progress to ensure timely achievement of common group status certification.

Your support and cooperation will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,



L. A. Peterson

M-1003 COMPONENT LISTING

Group A-1

New Journal Roller Bearings

Group B-1

New Truck Side Frames

New Truck Bolsters

New Couplers

New Yokes

New Knuckles

New Truck Springs

New Draft Sills

Group C-1

New Center Plates

New Draft Gears

Group D-1

New Wheels

New Axles

Group A-2

Reconditioned Journal Roller Bearings

Group B-2 *

Reconditioned Couplers

Reconditioned Yokes

Reconditioned Knuckles

Group C-2 *

Reconditioned Draft Gears

Group D-2 *

Secondhand Wheels

Secondhand Axles

* Represents a preliminary listing of reconditioned and secondhand components included in the program.