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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Technical Services Working Committee

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December 17, 1997

CIRCULAR LETTER
(c-8833)

Subject: New Quality Assurance Program Implementation Schedule; Facilities
Approved for the Manufacture of Rail, Switches, Frogs and Ties
TO MEMBERS AND PRIVATE CAR OWNERS

File Number: QA-13

The Technical Services Division of the Association of American Railroads herein provides additional details concerning the continuing implementation of the Quality Assurance Program. For your information, the implementation of the Program was originally announced in Circular Letter C-7081, dated September 10, 1985.

As authorized by the Technical Services Working Committee, contractors (as defined in M-1003) engaged in the manufacture of rail, switches, frogs and ties are herein invited to notify by February 21, 1998, the Manager Quality Assurance, in writing, of intent to make application for Quality Assurance Certification under the provisions of Specification M-1003.

Upon receipt by AAR of a letter of intent, an application form and additional information concerning the certification process will be forwarded to each potential applicant. Facilities subsequently filing formal applications by March 21, 1998, 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 for the aforementioned contractors is targeted for August 1, 1998.

Questions regarding application requirements or procedures should be directed to Mr. R.J. Fontaine at 202/639-2145.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Stahura
Director, QA, Rules & Inspection