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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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CIRCULAR LETTER
(c-9260)

**Subject: Extension of AAR Quality Assurance Program to Include Facilities that
Recondition Slack Adjusters
TO MEMBERS AND PRIVATE CAR OWNERS**

File Number: QA-1.5-12-00

The Technical Services Working Committee, at its November 16, 2000 meeting, approved expansion of the industry's Quality Assurance program to include slack adjuster reconditioners. Slack adjuster repair and replacement costs averaged \$3,700,000 annually in AAR foreign car repair billing from 1995 to 1999.

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

As mandated by the Association of American Railroads Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices Standard S-423-92 and the AAR Technical Services Working Committee, contractors who recondition slack adjusters, are herein invited to notify, by January 15, 2001, the QA Committee Coordinator (in writing) of intent to make application for Quality Assurance Certification under the provisions of AAR Specification M-1003.

Upon receipt by the QA Committee Coordinator 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 application by February 15, 2000 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 March 15, 2001.

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

Sincerely,

Patrick T. Ameen