**Rail Tank Car Production**

In order to manufacture, assemble, fabricate, alter, convert, repair, and qualify tank car tanks, tank cars, and tank car pressure retaining components you have to be a certified as an AAR tank car facility in accordance with M-1002 and M-1003.

In accordance with M-1002 all tank car designs must be approved by the AAR.

The following documents will outline the requirements for designing and the approval process for a rail car for North American service and outline the certification requirements of a facility to produce a DOT/TC certified tank car. As a guess, if the tank car design is approved and the facility certification process goes forward very smoothly I would think it would be a minimum of 6 months to get to the production phase for actual commercial tank cars.

**REVIEW:**
- 49 CFR Parts 171, 172, and 173 to determine the appropriate packaging requirements based on the commodity and/or various commodities that you may wish to build cars to transport.
- 49 CFR Part 179 for Specification for Tank Cars
- 49 CFR Part 180 for Qualification and Maintenance of Tank Cars
- 49 CFR 215 Freight Car Safety Standards
- 49 CFR 231 Safety Appliance Standards
- 49 CFR 232 Power Brakes and Drawbars
- M-1001 Chapters 6 General Design and Test Requirements – Tank Cars
- M-1001 Chapter 7 Fatigue Design of New Freight Cars
- M-1001 Chapter 11 Service-Worthiness Test and Analyses for New Freight Cars (this would on new and untried designs)
- M-1002 Specifications for Tank Cars
- M-1003 AAR Quality Assurance Program (Required by 49 CFR 179.7)
- S-2034 Car Builder Certification

**NOTE:**
- M-1001 = AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices Section C – Part II (Design, Fabrication, and Construction of Freight Cars)
- M-1002 = AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices Section C – Part III (Specifications for Tank Cars)
- M-1003 = AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices Section J (Specification for Quality Assurance)
- S-2034= AAR Standard for new car builder certification, Found in AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices Section C – (Car Construction Fundamentals and Details)

49 CFR = Code of Federal Regulation Title 49
AAR = Association of American Railroads
FRA = Federal Railroad Administration
DOT = Department of Transportation
TC = Transport Canada
Submission Procedure
A prospective tank car builder should make submission first to the AAR Tank Car Committee. After that committee completes its review, they will direct you to the Technical Standards Group for the design review of the freight car components of the tank car by the Equipment Engineering Committee. In addition to the approval of the tank car design, the facility will have to be inspected by the AAR for compliance with S-2034 and M-1003.

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