

AAR/RSI QUALITY NEWSLETTER

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AAR M-1003 AUDIT TRAINING PROGRAM

Submitted by Mark Rusovick – Transportation Technology Center, Inc.

Each year the AAR Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) hosts M-1003 professional training courses that provide working knowledge and understanding of the M-1003 Specification for Quality Assurance. There are two levels of training offered to the industry, The AAR Basic Auditors Training Class and the AAR Advanced Auditors Training Class. These classes are intended to provide participants with overall knowledge of the M-1003 requirements, aid in the development of a facility's Quality Management System (QMS) and give a detailed review of auditing skills and techniques. During the AAR Advanced Auditors Training, participants receive hands on auditing experience by participation in a mock on-site compliance audit at an actual M-1003 Certificated Facility.

Through the first four months of 2019 three classes have been held, two Basic and one Advanced.



The AAR QAC and the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. would like to thank Trinity Rail Maintenance Services in Vidor Texas for hosting the Advanced Class in March. Facilities that open their doors gives the participants first hand insight into the actual M-1003 auditing experience. The host facility also gains additional feedback into their Quality Assurance Program that can be used for continuous improvement. Please refer to our FAQ page (<http://www.aar.com/standards/FAQ.html>) if you are interested in participating in the remaining training opportunities in 2019



The AAR QAC governs AAR MSRP Section J, M-1003 Specification for Quality Assurance and is committed to promoting continuous improvement to facilities that navigate the rail industry. One of the primary goals of the AAR QAC training courses is to better equip those responsible for QMS implementation.

Interested in being a host training facility?

The QAC is seeking host M-1003 facilities for AAR Advanced Auditor training classes. For hosting the class, your company will receive (2) complimentary registrations and valuable insight on the status of your facilities QMS. The AAR has been conducting classes at AAR member



companies for many years now with very positive results. If you are interested in having your facility participate, contact Don Guillen and Mark Rusovick at QA@aar.com.

VIEWS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Q: Is it required that each facility that is M-1003 Certified maintain a current copy of AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (MSRP) Section?

A: Each M-1003 Certified facility needs to have a current copy of M-1003. AAR M-1003 Certification is a facility specific certification as noted in paragraph 1.8.2, "Separate applications are required for each separate facility manufacturing and/or reconditioning covered components, regardless of common ownership or control of those facilities." Further, paragraph 2.7.1 requires that "the contractor shall establish and maintain documented procedures to control all documents affecting quality, including, to the extent applicable, documents of external origin such as standards..." and 2.7.4.1 requires that "applicable issues of appropriate and understandable documents are available at all functional areas and inspection and test points where operations essential to the effective functioning of the quality system are performed." The QA Committee continues to support their earlier statement that each M-1003 Certified facility is responsible for its own quality program, and therefore must have a copy of the applicable requirements, including MSRP Section J.

REFLECTIVE SHEETING VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS – ARE YOU READY?

Submitted by David Barczak - Progress Rail

As of July 1st 2019, the requirements to perform comparator panel evaluation of existing reflective sheeting at time of a Single Car Air Brake Test will go into effect according to current AAR Field Manual Rule 66. Are you ready? The proposed process has been explained the

Have a Question?

Submit your M-1003 request for clarification or interpretation by emailing QA@aar.com.



Have an Idea for an Article?

Please submit your drafts to Donna Jacobi at djacobi@amstedrail.com or Gary Alderson at alderson@alltranstek.com.

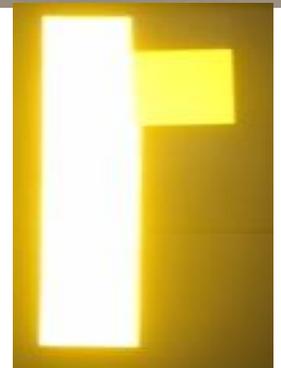
Reminder

Per Section J, 1.1.3 "An AAR official representative shall have free entry at all times to all parts of the contractor's works that concern the processing, testing, and inspection of materials for use in interchange service. This access is for the purpose of providing assurance that industry standards are being maintained. The contractor shall afford the AAR representative all reasonable facilities to ensure that materials are being furnished in accordance with the specification."

Arbitration and Rules Committee Docket AC-2645 which was embedded in Circular C-13236 as a Solicitation for Comments.

Some of the key take aways and considerations are as follows:

- To perform the reflective sheeting comparison will you choose to use an electronic handheld retroreflectometer or a comparator panel? Research has proven the retroreflectometer to be considerably higher in cost.
- If the plan is to use a comparator panel the supplier must have the comparator panel approved by the AAR. See AAR link for approved suppliers <http://www.aar.com/standards/approvals/S-916.pdf>
- Does the comparator panel conform to the requirements in AAR MSRP Section L, Standard S-916 with a retroreflective range of 150–170 cd/lx/m² for yellow sheeting and 250–285 cd/lx/m² for white?
- Labeling of Comparator Panel - Comparators shall include the following information on a waterproof and dust-proof label:
 - Name of manufacturer
 - “Retroreflective Comparator Panel—Yellow” or “Retroreflective Comparator Panel—White”
 - Part or model number
 - Unique and traceable serial number
 - Calibrated reflectivity level (measured in cd/lx/m²)
 - Manufactured: <Date of manufacture>
 - Date of recalibration <space for calibration sticker>
- Choose a light source of sufficient intensity to illuminate the sheeting and overcome the ambient lighting conditions.
- Clean all sheeting on the car/locomotive prior to comparison.
- The comparators are going to have magnetic backing to adhere to steel materials. Alternate provisions will have to be made to attach the comparator to an aluminum sided car as the majority of the North American coal car fleet is constructed of the non-magnetic material.
- Yellow and white colored sheeting may be used for locomotives but only yellow may be used for freight cars.



Above shows illumination of a new FRA 224 reflective sheet to the left of the comparator panel

RAILWAY INTERCHANGE 2019

Submitted by Amanda Patrick - RSI

Join us in Minneapolis this September for Railway Interchange 2019 (RI2019) - the largest railway exhibition and technical conference in North America. You won't want to miss the 600+ exhibits at the Minneapolis Convention Center and outdoor exhibits at BNSF Northtown Yard. Exhibits will be open on September 22 - September 24. On September 23 and 24, the Railway Supply Institute (RSI) will host the RSI Education &

Technical Training Conference with over 50 educational sessions on railcar maintenance, rail operations, air brake technologies and trends and a focus on leadership in the rail industry. Session content is provided by the Railway Supply Institute, the Air Brake Association, the International Association of Railway Operating Officers, the League of Railway Women, the Locomotive Maintenance Officers Association, and the Railcar Technical Services Association.

Here's why you should attend:

- Experience invaluable opportunities for networking and collaboration with nearly 9,000 rail industry professionals from around the globe
- Educational sessions at the RSI Education & Technical Training Conference feature technical and mechanical training and focus on safety and leadership in the rail industry.
- Learn about the latest technology, products, services and research from 600+ exhibitors at both indoor and outdoor exhibits.
- **Save \$75** if you register before August 15, 2019
- Class I and short line railroad employees and government employees are eligible for complimentary expo passes.

With vital educational workshops and seminars, state of the art products, services and technology on view in the indoor and outdoor exhibition, as well as networking opportunities throughout, Railway Interchange is the place to meet railway industry representatives from around the world.

Learn more at www.railwayinterchange.org.

2020 AAR QUALITY ASSURANCE CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 2020 AAR Quality Assurance Conference. The conference will be the week of January 28th in Fort Worth, TX. Click on the link for more information or to register:

<https://aar.com/downloads/Conference%20flyer%206-4-19%20linked.pdf>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND IMPORTANT LINKS

2019 Calendar of Events

Training	Date	Location
Basic Auditor Training	July 16-18	Colorado Springs, CO
	November 5-7	Orlando, FL
Advanced Auditor Training	September 10-12	Pueblo, CO
	October 8-10	Topeka, KS

An AAR Circular Letter will be issued several months prior to each class announcing when registration is open

Important Links

[Registry of M-1003 Certified Companies](#)

[M-1003 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[AAR M-1003 Certification on-line Application](#)

[AAR M1003, Section J Specification for Quality Assurance](#)

[AAR Training Schedule](#)

[AAR Circulars](#)

[MSRP Publication Current Revision Status](#)

[AAR Online Material Nonconformance Reporting System \(Chapter 7\)](#)

[Railway Supply Institute](#)

[RSI QAC & Previous Newsletters](#)

[RSI Tank Car Resource Center](#)

The AAR /RSI Joint QA Newsletter is provided through the efforts of AAR Quality Assurance Committee and Railway Supply Institute Quality Assurance Committee members in an effort to provide information that is important to our industry in support of improving the quality of products and services provided. You can support this process by submitting your questions and ideas for improvement to QA@aar.com.

**THE FOLLOWING AAR QAC AND RSI QAC TEAM MEMBERS WORKED ON THIS NEWSLETTER
AS PART OF THE COMMUNICATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP:**

AAR QAC

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Ray Morgan – The Greenbrier Companies

Mark Rusovick – TTCI/AAR

Bob Wolbert – Progress Rail

RSI QAC

Gary Alderson – AllTranstek

Sara Hopper - The Greenbrier Companies

Donna Jacobi – Amsted Rail

Sheena Prevette – Union Tank

Michael Ruby - TrinityRail

Randy Thomure - RSI

Lee Verhey – TrinityRail