

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1 – On-line tool for AAFR’s

Page 1 – AAR Tank Car
Facilities: Current Events

Page 2 – AAR Quality
Assurance: Current Events

Page 4 – Useful Links

AAR ON-LINE TOOL FOR AAFR’S

On February 22, 2022, the AAR Tank Car Committee issued CPC-1388 providing information about the new on-line tool for Adverse Audit Finding Reports (AAFR). The circular letter also described a User Guide that is available to help with the new on-line tool. This is expected to be rolled out to non-tank car facilities in the future. To access the User Guide and the AAFR on-

line system, please click on the following link: <https://aar.iirx.net/>

AAR TANK CAR FACILITIES: CURRENT EVENTS

AAR Tank Car Committee meetings

Submitted by Gary Alderson – AllTranstek

The tank car committee held their open meetings to review current dockets on Wednesday April 20, 2022, from 1 pm until 5 pm, and on Thursday April 21, 2022, from 8:30 am until 10:45 am. There was confusion on the Appendix D proposal as stated by Dan Welch of SMBC Rail who is chair of the Appendix D task force. It was clarified by Joe Perez of the tank car committee that a blended document was used instead of the actual proposal submitted to the tank car committee by Dan Welch.

The meetings did not provide any information on the new Visual Testing requirements. The RSI members in attendance did express their concerns over the lack of information on CPC-1387.



Have an Idea for an Article?

Please submit your drafts to
Gary Alderson at
alderson@alltranstek.com.
or Alfredo Ricardo at
ricardo@alltranstek.com

Interested in Joining RSI QAC?

Contact Lee Verhey at
verhey@rsiweb.org.



Not Getting the Newsletter and Want to Subscribe?

Contact Lee Verhey at
verhey@rsiweb.org.

AAR QUALITY ASSURANCE - CURRENT EVENTS

AAR Quality Assurance Conference

Submitted by Gary Alderson – AllTranstek

The annual AAR Quality Assurance Conference included Keynote Speaker, Kari Gonzales. Kari is the CEO and President of MxV, formerly TTCI. She spoke of the changes happening to move the MxV facility to a location south of the TTCI facility in Pueblo. The changes are currently in process and new track and buildings are being constructed to carry out the engineering, testing, and research and development projects.

The conference had several interesting topics and presentations. RSI Quality Assurance Committee had a table set up and several familiar visitors came by to talk to us. A big thank you to those who took time during the breaks to host the table and chat with people stopping by. Lee Verhey had a very good presentation and discussed the importance of RSI and the advocacy we provide to the industry.

One very interesting presentation was made by Karen Carriere, Assistant Vice President of Technical Services of the new MxV. She discussed the Audit Quality Task Force created to standardize auditing. The auditing process was defined as “different” between the various AAR committees, such as WABL and Equipment Engineering Committee. For example, an AAR M1003 audit may not be the same at a Wheel and Axle facility as compared to a Brake Hose manufacturer. And a technical audit combined with a M1003 audit for a tank car facility is different from audits for the other certified facilities. The task force includes members from the AAR Tank Car Committee. Karen also mentioned that M1002 and M1003 audits may be conducted separately.

RSI and AAR QAC member Bob Wolbert commented on the presentation by Jason Riggs requested by the QAC to discuss the differences between performance-based systems and prescriptive based systems. The QAC has a history of exploring improvement options to the current M-1003 specification to promote continual improvement. Don Guillen’s (QAC Committee Manager) comment made to the attendees regarding the importance of realizing value added results through the audit process supports the concerns of the companies being audited. Another noteworthy comment was made by one of the auditors involving the migration of QA Manuals to policy manuals versus the QAM with procedures included in the past. The comment made aimed at the auditor’s ability to prepare in support of improving the audit process. Improving the M-1003 specification will include TAG activities including RSI members.

AAR Quality Assurance Training

Submitted by Donna Jacobi – Amsted Rail

The AAR is offering multiple in-person training classes in Root Cause & Corrective Action, M-1003 Basic Auditor, and M-1003 Advanced Auditor. All three classes are offered in multiple locations. Click on the link to register or for additional information: [AAR Training Schedule](#)

2022 AAR Quality Assurance Training

Root Cause & Corrective Action Class - In Person

The Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action course is an interactive two-day training program and is designed to improve the problem-solving skills of employees by promoting the understanding of the processes and techniques used for effective root cause analysis and corrective action implementation. The intent is to enhance awareness of the underlying causes of problems that negatively impact many organizations' operations, quality, and profitability. Instructors will utilize lectures, group discussions, hands-on exercises, and other interactive activities to develop the knowledge and skills of the attendees.

Session Dates: June 21-22 (Chicago, IL) December 6-7 (Fort Worth, TX)

M-1003 Basic Auditor Training Class - In Person

The M-1003 Basic Auditor Training is intended to improve the participant's knowledge, background, and skills needed in conducting M-1003 internal or external audits. This course provides a thorough review of the M-1003 requirements; development of an organization's Quality Assurance Manual/Procedures; and administration of a facilities audit program. Personal auditing experience is gained through active interaction in class discussions.

Session Dates: June 7-9 (Kansas City, KS) July 12-14 (Nashville, TN)
September 20-22 (Puerto Vallarta, MX) November 15-17 (San Diego, CA)

M-1003 Advanced Auditor Training - In Person

The M-1003 Advanced Auditor Training Seminar is designed for those parties seeking in-depth training in AAR Quality Assurance Program auditing techniques and practices. Attendees must have attended the AAR Basic Auditor Training seminar. The attendee must have performed at least one internal or external audit prior to attending the seminar. The course will include: case study work, a detailed quality assurance manual review using the QAPE checklist, and various role-playing activities. Hands-on experience is obtained through participation in an on-site compliance audit. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is required for this class including hard hats, safety glasses, hearing protection, and steel toe shoes.

Session Dates: May 17-19 (Tlaxcala, MX) July 26-28 (Greenville, SC)
August 23-25 (Dallas, TX) October 25-27 (Dallas, TX)

Spots are limited.

Register now at:

aar.com/qa-training



For additional information:
Email AAR Quality Assurance at QA@aar.com

USEFUL LINKS

[**Railway Supply Institute**](#)

[**AAR Circulars**](#)

[**RSI QAC & Previous Newsletters**](#)

[**MSRP Publication Current Revision Status**](#)

[**RSI Tank Car Resource Center**](#)

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

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

[**AAR FAQ Page includes QAPE**](#)

[**M-1003 Frequently Asked Questions**](#)

[**American Society for Quality - Training**](#)

[**RSI 100**](#)

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

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

[**AAR Training Schedule**](#)

THE FOLLOWING RSI QAC TEAM MEMBERS WORKED ON THIS NEWSLETTER:

Gary Alderson – AllTranstek

Donna Jacobi – Amsted Rail

Alfredo Ricardo – AllTranstek

Michael Ruby – TrinityRail

Bob Wolbert – Progress Rail

Lee Verhey – RSI

The information given in this newsletter is for informational and educational purposes only. It is not intended to provide legal advice and should not be relied upon to make business decisions about any existing, future or prior rule, regulation or interpretation.