

## IN RESPONSE TO EAST PALESTINE

Submitted by Patty Long – RSI

As a professional association, our responses to the derailment last month were focused first on empathy and support for the people impacted. Appropriate compensation and remediation are still being discussed and scrutinized by oversight hearings at both the state and federal levels. While the NTSB conducts a thorough factual investigation into the root cause(s) of the derailment, the Railway Supply Institute (RSI) has been asked and is providing relevant information. At the end of the day, all agree that safety is the highest priority for the public, our members, and the industry as a whole.

But, even before the NTSB investigation reaches a conclusion, there are many legislative and regulatory attempts to address issues under the heading of safety and the RSI is engaging daily in those discussions. Some of the issues impacting the rail supply industry include the acceleration of Fast Act deadlines, technology related to wayside detectors, and ECP braking.

On Fast Act acceleration, the RSI Committee on Tank Cars has produced a white paper on the industry's potential capacity for new car builds and retrofits in the current environment. That, along with our Tank Car Resource Center, has proven to be a useful and sought-after resource by those who are making decisions. RSI is currently gathering member perspectives on the other proposals under consideration and seeking to provide similar guidance.

Good government is made possible by good information and strong representation. Over the years, the RSI has developed key relationships and a reputation for being a trusted source of information on the industry. We are grateful to the members who have been so helpful in providing information that we can aggregate and share on behalf of the industry. We encourage all members' continued input and engagement.

## RSI EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Submitted by Jim Dinell – AllTranstek

**The RSI Education TAG was pleased to participate in the 2023 AAR Quality Assurance Auditor and Industry Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.**

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Figure 1 - Brian Ricketts, AllTranstek, performing the bubble leak test portion of the demonstration.

Members of the RSI Education TAG provided two hands-on trainings, one on Ultrasonic Testing & Auditing Best Practices and another on Bubble Leak Testing of Service Equipment. James Dinell, and Steve McCullough of AllTranstek and Jeff Cameron of Union Tank Car Company set up the workshop. Brian Ricketts of AllTranstek assisted with the bubble leak demonstration. A big thank you to these folks for making the workshop possible and providing their expertise.

RSI recognizes the need for greater access to high-quality training and is committed to increasing its training portfolio to address the opportunity. In 2023, RSI is offering a monthly webinar series covering a variety of industry specific content, and the QAC Education TAG will offer two facility-based truck and coupler inspection courses. RSI will release the training

schedule in April and anticipates space will fill quickly. Contact [dinell@alltranstek.com](mailto:dinell@alltranstek.com) with questions or to be placed on the pre-registration sign-up list.

## RAILWAY SUPPLY INSTITUTE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Gary Alderson – AllTranstek, LLC

We have some corrections from our 4Q 2022 article about the list of members of the Railway Supply Institute (RSI) Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) The current members of the RSI QAC are:

- AllTranstek, LLC – Gary Alderson, Manager, Quality Processes
- AllTranstek, LLC – Alfredo Ricardo, Quality & Regulatory Consultant
- AllTranstek, LLC – David Ronzani, Director, Railcar Regulatory Compliance
- AllTranstek, LLC – James Dinell, Director, Technical Services
- American Industrial Transport Corporation, Jake Sternberg, Quality Engineer
- Amsted Rail – Tom Garner, Quality Assurance Manager
- Amsted Rail - Donna Jacobi, Manager, Quality Systems – (RSI QAC Chairperson)
- Amsted Rail – Mark Michel, Director of Engineering/Quality Manager
- Amsted Rail – Ed Weedmark, Manager, Quality Audits
- Amsted Rail – Harry Brackenbury, Quality Manager
- GATX Corporation – Margaret Zero, Director, Quality Assurance – (RSI QAC Vice-Chairperson)
- Greenbrier Rail Services – Sara Hopper, Regulatory Manager
- Greenbrier Rail Services – Chad Meinholdt, Director of Quality Assurance
- Greenbrier Management Services – Paul Conner, Performance Assurance Engineer, Regulatory Services Group
- Marmon Rail – Ken Campbell, Manager Coating and Lining Processes
- Marmon Rail – Jason Riggs, VP Technical Services
- Progress Rail – Bob Wolbert, Director Quality

Railway Supply Institute – Sheena Prevette, Director of Regulatory and Industrial Affairs  
Salco Products, Inc. – Tom DeLafosse, Vice President, Regulatory Compliance Services  
Trace Applications Inc. – Ted Power, President  
Trinity Industries – Dean Matzo, Vice President, Quality  
Trinity Industries – Michael Ruby, Director Quality Assurance  
Union Tank Car – Jeffery Cameron, Director of Quality  
W.E. Lott Company – Ric Olt, President

## MENTORING IN THE RAILCAR INDUSTRY

Submitted by Alfredo Ricardo – AllTranstek

Currently, hiring and retaining employees is an issue in the railcar industry. Given the Covid pandemic was and remains a major contributing factor, a variety of industries, both domestic and abroad, struggle to hire and retain the needed workforce. Thus, the RSI QAC Newsletter is beginning a series of articles that will discuss these challenges and offer solutions rooted in robust mentoring programs.

In this issue, we discuss **intentional “on the job” training and mentoring** for new and learning team members.

Mentoring is rarely talked about on the job, but oftentimes new hires are just starting their careers and the benefits of working alongside experienced leadmen, foremen and other seasoned employees is immeasurable. Experienced personnel have completed training, have been qualified, and even certified by their employer based on that training and experience. An intentional on-boarding process must connect new and learning employees with tenured job-specific expertise and identify the training and mentoring checkpoints the mentor and mentee must achieve together. In a practical sense, mentoring consists of pairing a prospect employee who shows interest in the industry, with a person or a group of persons with experience and knowledge, willing to share what they know. These actions provide new employees the benefit of learning how to follow procedures as well as customer requirements and can result in improving their leadership and communication skills, resulting in incremental quality improvement.

When a company fails to have a formal process in place to establish and manage the mentorship, new employees often become frustrated and discouraged. This negative new employee experience is a major cause of voluntary self-termination or quitting during the first six-months of employment.

Achieving “buy-in” for the development and implementation of an effective mentorship program starts with executive management. Leadership must then follow-through with program



## Have an Idea for an Article?

Please submit your drafts to Gary Alderson at [alderson@alltranstek.com](mailto:alderson@alltranstek.com) or Alfredo Ricardo at [ricardo@alltranstek.com](mailto:ricardo@alltranstek.com)

## Interested in Joining RSI QAC?

Contact Sheena Prevette at [sprevette@rsiweb.org](mailto:sprevette@rsiweb.org)

## Not Getting the Newsletter and Want to Subscribe?

Contact Sheena Prevette at [sprevette@rsiweb.org](mailto:sprevette@rsiweb.org)



implementation and provide opportunities for new employees to learn alongside experienced mentors and to be able to ask questions and receive feedback.

## **SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE NEWSLETTER**

Submitted by Gary Alderson – AllTranstek, LLC

We need your input for our newsletter. As Donna Jacobi stated during her presentation at the AAR Quality Assurance Conference, we need you to submit articles so we can hear about **your experiences in the quality world**. The article can be brief or more elaborate depending on the subject. We are looking for people who can provide their experiences to the new employees in our quality world and for those who have experience but are looking for advice on how to improve what they do. We don't like to keep things secret in the quality assurance industry. If you have a better way to stay organized as a quality assurance manager, or in-process inspector, or tips on how to be the best final inspector, **we want to hear about it**. Let's share our knowledge and improve how we get our jobs done.

## **GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (GPAC) UPDATE**

Submitted by Nicole Brewin – RSI

**The GPAC exists to raise awareness and advocate for critical issues impacting the wellbeing of rail transportation and the railway supply industry.**

The committee meets each month to discuss legislation issues and they work with congress members in Washington, DC to advocate for our industry.

White House Releases FY 2024 Budget: President Biden's budget request for FY 2024 includes \$1.7 trillion in discretionary spending — a 4.8 percent increase in base funding from the current fiscal year appropriations. The budget proposes a 3.2 percent increase in defense spending, which would boost the Defense Department's funding by \$26 billion. The agency that would receive the highest percentage boost is the National Science Foundation, which Biden's request would increase by nearly 19 percent. Biden requested \$27.8 billion in discretionary spending for DOT — \$1.8 billion more than enacted last year, excluding \$2.6 billion in one-time spending directed by Congress. The Office of Management and Budget only released high-level summaries; it will release more detailed budget documents next week.

The Office of Management and Budget has proposed guidance in the Federal Register that aims to clarify federal funding requirements of public-service projects involving infrastructure, per the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA).

Upcoming Hearings for the week of March 13th and beyond:

**March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am – House Energy & Commerce Committee, Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials Subcommittee Hearing: [“Government Response to East Palestine: Ensuring Safety and Transparency for the Community.”](#)**

The RSI GPAC welcomes attendance from all RSI members. If you are interested in attending, contact [brewing@rsiweb.org](mailto:brewing@rsiweb.org) for more information.

2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter GPAC Schedule:

- April 4, 2023, 2:00pm EST
- May 2, 2023, 2:00pm EST
- June 6, 2023, 2:00pm EST

## RSI-100 WORKING GROUP TO RECONVENE

Submitted by Sheena Prevette - RSI

**The Railway Supply Institute will reconvene the RSI-100 working group on Wednesday April 12 and Thursday April 13, 2023, at Salco Products, Inc.**

RSI-100 is an industry leading recommended practice that enables railway parts suppliers to produce tank car components in conformance with Association of American Railroads (AAR) specifications and applicable federal regulations. The Railway Supply Institute developed the program to provide tank car manufacturers and repair facilities with confidence that products acquired for installation on tank car tanks conform to the specified quality requirement. The RSI-100 guidelines also provide guidance for verification of product conformance when components are received by tank car manufacturing and repair facilities.

If you are a tank car manufacturer or tank car repair facility and are interested in learning more about what RSI-100 offers, view the video below and visit the [RSI Website](#) where you can download the standard and other supporting information.



Figure 2 - RSI-100 Product Certification / Material Inspection Presentation

If your facility has implemented RSI-100, RSI is interested in hearing from you. Please contact [sprevette@rsiweb.org](mailto:sprevette@rsiweb.org) to share your knowledge and experience.

## 2023 AAR TRAINING – [REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE](#)

Submitted by RSI QAC M-1003 TAG



**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.

July 18-19 – Kansas City, KS  
October 24-25 – Pueblo, CO

**M-1003 Advanced Auditor Training Class – 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, hands-on exercises, and other interactive activities to develop the knowledge and skills of the attendees.

June 6-8 – Pueblo, CO  
August 1-3 – Mira Loma, CA  
August 22-24 – Ciudad Sahagun, MX (Spanish)  
September 12-14 – San Antonio, 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.

March 28-30 – Pueblo, CO  
May 9-11 – New Orleans, LA  
May 23-25 – Guadalajara, MX (Spanish)  
June 20-22 – Nashville, TN  
November 7-9 – San Diego, CA

## USEFUL LINKS

[Railway Supply Institute](#)

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

[RSI QAC & Previous Newsletters](#)

[M-1003 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[RSI Tank Car Resource Center](#)

[American Society for Quality - Training](#)

[RSI 100](#)

[AAR Circulars](#)

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

[MSRP Publication Current Revision Status](#)

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

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

[AAR Training Schedule](#)

[AAR FAQ Page includes QAPE](#)

**THE FOLLOWING RSI QAC TEAM MEMBERS WORKED ON THIS NEWSLETTER**

Gary Alderson – AllTranstek  
Alfredo Ricardo – AllTranstek

Jim Dinell - AllTranstek  
Nicole Brewin - RSI

Donna Jacobi – Amsted Rail  
Sheena Prevette – RSI