

Rail Safety Bulletin

Issue by Alberta Transportation, Dangerous Goods, Vehicle and Rail Safety

It has come to our attention that many companies operating rail car movers may not know that steel wheels on the movers require periodic inspection. Wheels must be maintained in a serviceable condition as per the specification of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) standards.

Excessive wear of the wheel tread may result in a high flange which may cause a derailment as the result of the flange striking a joint bar or when traversing over a frog. A thin flange may pick a switch point and cause a derailment.

Wheel measurements must be made by a competent person using the appropriate gauge for the particular rail car mover. Steel wheel measurements should be made at a minimum of semi-annually, must be documented and retained on file.



Most Shuttle Wagon wheels cannot be measured with a standard AAR wheel gauge. In order to accurately measure wheel tread wear and flange height must be made with a factory supplied wheel gauge. The use of an AAR gauge will result in inaccurate measurements and may result in premature wheel replacement. Only a competent person should use the wheel gauge.



Track Mobile and Rail King rail car mover's steel wheel measurements can be made utilizing an AAR approved wheel gauge. Your rail car mover manufacture or vendor should be contacted for the appropriate gauge.

Note: Tread surface on all steel wheels have been case hardened to a few mm to extend the life of the wheel. However, once the hardened surface has been worn the remaining steel will wear faster resulting in an increase height of the flange and eventually beyond condemnable limits of 1.5 inches.

Should you have any questions, please call Knut Ohm, Rail Safety Officer at 310-0000 then 780-427-7572 or email knut.ohm@gov.ab.ca

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