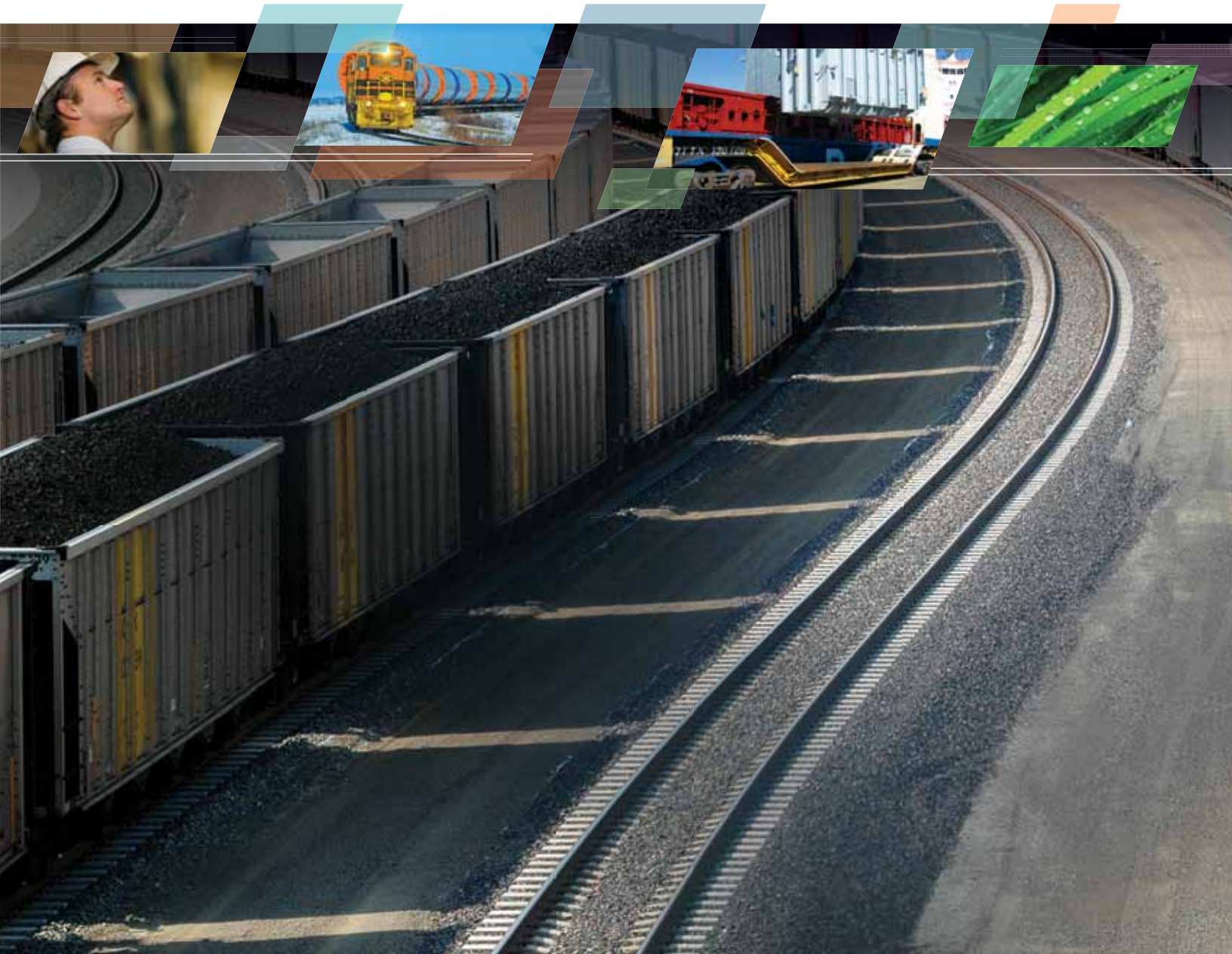




Railway Association  
of Canada

# Loading Freight Cars Safely





A large yellow crane is lifting a heavy, grey, rectangular metal component from a red transport trailer. The component is suspended by two yellow and black striped lifting slings. The trailer is parked on a paved surface, and a large white ship is visible in the background. The sky is clear blue.

Promote

and continually improve the safe  
movement of people and goods

## About RAC

**The Railway Association of Canada (RAC) represents some 50 goods, tourist, commuter and intercity Rail businesses in Canada, their more than 35,000 employees and over 45 associate suppliers and partners.**

Canada's railways are an important enabler of economic activity in Canada, moving approximately 70 per cent of surface goods and over 70 million passengers every year. RAC member companies run an average of 1,100 passenger and goods trains every day, often over some of the world's most rugged terrain and in some of the world's worst weather conditions.

One of the primary activities of RAC is to promote and continually improve the safe movement of people and goods. In addition to the many people and freight that are moved over rail, trains are often called upon to carry loads that require special attention to ensure compliance with all safety regulations.



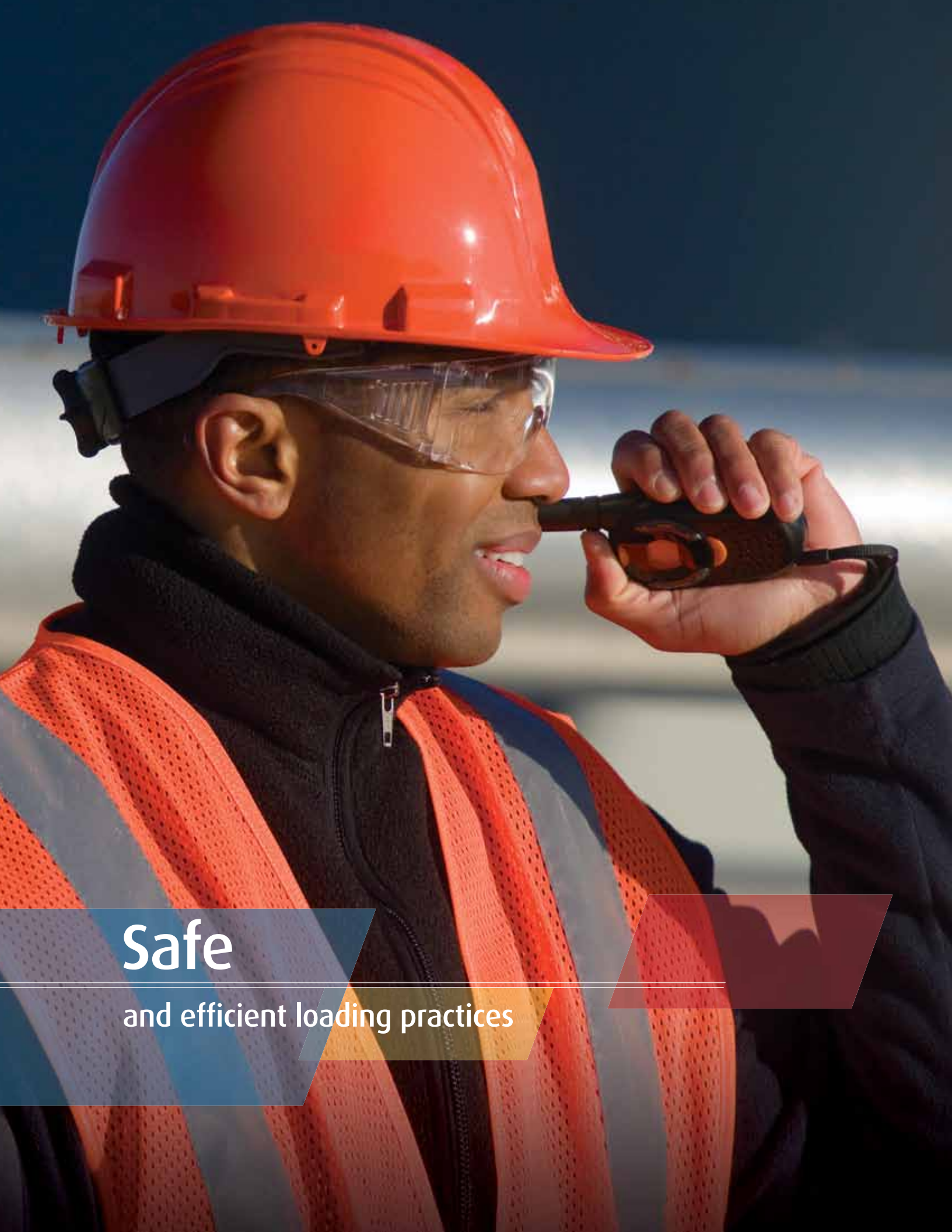
## Mechanical Services Team

The RAC Mechanical Services Team is entrusted in monitoring rail transportation and promoting safe car loading and transportation practices through instructions and advice to shippers and railway personnel responsible for the loading and handling of rails cars. With a wealth of experience acquired over many decades in the rail sector, the team is an authority on rules developed by the Railway Association of Canada, the Association of American Railroads and Transport Canada.

### The team is tasked with

- providing appropriate interpretation to shippers and member railways, when requested;
- promoting improved loading practices by shippers and within the industry for domestic and international traffic moving by closed or open top freight cars, containers and trailers on flat cars, or any other specially equipped cars or oversize shipments;
- assisting shippers or railways in developing new loading patterns or revisions to existing AAR and RAC rules or procedures, and issuing RAC circulars after testing;
- encouraging and promoting good customer and railway relations.





Safe

and efficient loading practices

## Loading Freight Cars Safely

The safe and efficient loading of railcars is important to both the railway industry and its customers.

Loads, especially on open top cars, must be secured in a manner that will maximize damage free transportation of commodities, and ensure that safe railway operations are not compromised. This will also facilitate the interchange of loaded cars between railways.

RAC is committed to ensuring that railway service is competitive with highway transport and that loading, unloading, blocking and bracing of rail cars does not add unnecessary delay or costs to railway customers. Railway marketing and operating personnel also have a direct interest in safe and efficient loading practices.

The loading of both open top and closed cars is governed by rules and regulations developed by the RAC and the AAR. Compliance with RAC loading circulars and AAR loading rules is mandatory under the *Railway Safety Act* of Canada.

Any railway or its customers may submit a loading proposal to the RAC manager of car loading rules in order to obtain an RAC circular. Once the proposal is evaluated, tested and proven safe, the RAC loading rules committee will then approve the issuance of an RAC circular which will allow the movement on Canadian rails of cars loaded to this configuration.

The RAC loading rules committee includes Member Railway and RAC representatives directly involved in the loading procedures of the railway industry.

The RAC serves its members and their customers by promoting safe loading procedures, informing shippers and railway employees of safe practices and ensuring the rules are applied consistently. We may also adjudicate disputes between railways or between railways and customers. This activity is handled through the RAC in the most cost-effective manner possible.

The managers participate in the activities of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Committee and meet with AAR personnel to exchange information of mutual interest. This continued close relationship with their U.S. colleagues is particularly important due to the large volume of trans-border interchange traffic.

One of the most important aspects of their duties relates to education. The managers spend a substantial amount of time conducting information seminars for shippers and railway personnel.

This educational work is a continuing process because rules and methods evolve, the type of

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equipment is modernised and personnel change or rotate. The RAC has developed manuals and audiovisual material pertaining to the rules and regulations to support their training programs.

The RAC is pleased to undertake this work on behalf of the railway industry and its customers and we look forward to working with you to maintain the railway industry as the safest mode of transportation.

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**We Can Be Reached At:**



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SHIPS MAY BE LOADED  
WITH D-RINGS EXCEPT

AAR-73W

IT 226200  
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