

PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

The purpose of this manual is to provide both shippers and carriers with the information required to ensure that all loads are prepared in accordance with the regulations.

Ensuring that commodities are loaded on rail equipment in a safe, efficient and economical manner is a critical part of the transportation process. Both shippers and railways share the responsibility for developing logical regulations and then adhering to them.

The regulations applicable to the loading of commodities can be found in the Freight Car Inspection and Safety Rules. These rules require that loading of rail cars be done in accordance with the RAC circular on car loading or the Association of American Railroads (AAR) publication entitled, "Rules Governing the Loading of Commodities on Open Top Cars and Trailers".

The obligation of the shipper to comply with these regulations is defined in Uniform Freight Classification Rule 27, Section No. 3, which reads in part: "Shippers must comply with carriers' rules regulating safe loading of freight and protection of equipment." Adherence to the regulations will ensure that shipments of commodities are delivered to the customer in good condition, with no unnecessary costly delays caused by poor loading.

The obligation of the carrier, as governed by Rule 89, Section of the AAR's Interchange Rules Field Manual, is to only accept loads that are "... loaded in compliance with rules governing the loading of commodities on open top cars." Once inspected and accepted, loads in compliance are the responsibility of the railway.

It is up to the shippers to choose the loading configuration that best suits his products, and then apply the fundamental rules. This manual constitutes a great wealth of information which will be useful to all concerned involved in **LOADING COMMODITIES FOR RAIL MOVEMENT**. Latest revisions are available thru RAC or AAR.