

Equal Distribution of Weight Crosswise of Car

This general safety advisory broadcast is intended for all CPR Carload customers in Canada and the United States to address a significant increase of laterally imbalanced carload shipments detected by our Mechanical Services Department during our routine safety in-transit inspections.

Canadian Pacific Railway's Damage Prevention Claim Services, and Mechanical Services Departments remind all carload customers to ensure that all loads prepared for rail departure are equally balanced. Failing to adhere to this mandatory requirement was deemed to be the primary cause of a recent derailment in British Columbia whereby a laterally unbalanced load caused a railcar truck restriction and permitted wheel lift over the top rail.

This advisory is intended to remind all CPR carload customers they **MUST** comply with all 10 mandatory general loading rules found in AAR (Association of American Railroads) Circular No. 42-J Issued January 1, 2001. Specifically, rule 5 is appended for clarification purposes:

Rule No. 5 - Distribution of Weight – Crosswise of Car

1. The load must be located so that the weight along both sides of car is equal for the entire length of the load.
2. When the load is of such a character that it cannot be placed so as to obtain equal distribution of weight, crosswise of car, suitable ballast, properly secured, must be used to equalize the weight.
3. In boxcars lading must be secured to prevent tipping or moving towards car's sides where the vacant space across car exceed the following:
 - An aggregate of 18 inches crosswise of car
 - Vacant crosswise space of less than 18 inches as may be specified in pamphlets covering methods for loading, bracing and blocking carload shipments of individual commodities

To assist our carload customers, this advisory includes sample exhibits of a forest product load that does not observe mandatory AAR Rule 5 as well one exhibit that does observe the rule:



Incorrect Crosswise Distribution Of Weight (above left): photo depicts 4'x 8' sheets of board product loaded down the center of the boxcar with no protection offered to avoid against shifting into the lateral voids. As car travels natural vibration found in rail transit will

cause load to shift creating an imbalanced load.

Correct Crosswise Distribution Of Weight (above right): photo depicts bundles of 4'x 8' sheets of OSB, loaded to equally fill the 18 inch lateral void present in a 9'-6" wide boxcar. By "tipping up" the lifts as they are stacked in the car and supporting with a board placed between the lifts, as well having the runner boards present along the bottom of each lift placed at the top edge of the lift directly underneath tends to work at locking in the lifts as loaded creating an equal distribution of weight.

If you require additional advice or direction on the aforementioned mandatory shipping requirement, please contact, Damage Prevention & Claim Services by email contact_dpfc@cpr.ca or phone 1-877-277-3732.