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US Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Sample Car Inspection Checklist For: S-2044 Appendix A-1
Safety Appliances for Box Cars and Other House Cars without Roof Hatches

OMB No. 2130-0565
FRA F6180.161 A

Inspector(s):		Inspection Location:		Date:	Region:	
Builder:		Car Initial and Number:		Car Type:	No. of cars to be Built:	Builder Job No.
ITEM	Number - Dimensions - Location - Manner of Application			Appendix Reference	Notes	
Hand Brake	<p>Each car shall have at least one AAR-approved vertical-wheel hand brake that complies with MSRP Section E, Standard S-475 and that operates in harmony with the power brake equipment on the car. Total braking force applied to the brake shoes by the hand brake shall comply with the requirements of MSRP Section E, Standard S-401, but in any event shall be not less than that developed by 50 psi brake cylinder pressure. The hand brake wheel and chain drum of vertical-wheel hand brakes shall be arranged so that both will revolve when applying and gradually releasing the hand brake. The hand brake shall be provided with means to prevent application of the brake by turning the brake wheel in a counterclockwise direction.</p> <p>The hand brake wheel shall have a nominal diameter of 22 in. The brake wheel shall be of shallow configuration and shall be of steel or other material of equivalent strength.</p> <p>The hub of the hand brake wheel shall be 2 5/8 in. deep with a square tapered fit to the shaft. The taper on the brake wheel hub and shaft shall be 1 in. in 12 in. on each side, or 2 in. in 12 in. total, with the small end of the shaft opening 7/8 in. square. The brake wheel shall be secured to the brake shaft with an American National Standard 7/8—9 heavy hex nut and 3/16 in. × 1 1/2 in. cotter, or their equivalent.</p>			Appendix A1, 2.1.1		
Location	<p>The hand brake shall be located so that it can be safely operated from the horizontal end platform while the car is in motion. The center of the hand brake shaft on cars equipped with one hand brake shall be located on the B end of the car to the left of, and not less than 17 in. nor more than 22 in. from, the centerline of the car and shall be not less than 28 in. nor more than 40 in. above the platform-support surface of the end-platform mounting brackets. The hand brakes on cars equipped with more than one hand brake shall be located as specified in paragraph 9.0 of the base standard.</p>			Appendix A1, 2.1.2		
	<p>Clearance around the rim of the hand brake wheel shall be not less than 4 in. Clearance between the grip portion of the release lever, if used, throughout its full range of travel and any part of the car shall be not less than 2 1/2 in.</p>			Appendix A1, 2.1.3		
	<p>The outside edge of the hand brake wheel shall not extend more than 8 in. beyond the striker or end of the center sill, whichever extends farther, and not more than 8 in. beyond the outboard edge of the end platform. The outside edge of the hand brake wheel shall be not less than 1 in. and not more than 18 in. outboard of the inside surface of the horizontal end-platform handhold.</p>			Appendix A1, 2.2.1		
				Appendix A1, 2.2.2		
				Appendix A1, 2.2.3		



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ITEM	Number - Dimensions - Location - Manner of Application	Appendix Reference	Notes
<p>Manner of Application</p> <p>Sill Steps</p> <p>Dimensions</p> <p>Location</p>	<p>If the hand brake application is such that the requirements of paragraph 2.2.2 can be met only with hand brakes having short hand brake release levers or only with long release levers, but not both, the car shall be marked adjacent to the hand brake in 1 1/2 in. high letters "SHORT (LONG) RELEASE LEVER BRAKE ONLY."</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 2.2.4</p>	
	<p>The hand brake housing shall be securely fastened. The hand brake application, including bolt hole pattern, shall conform to MSRP Section E, Standard S-475.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 2.3.1</p>	
	<p>The hand brake chain shall conform to the requirements of S-475, but in any event shall have minimum working load of 5,875 lb. and minimum proof test of 11,750 lb.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 2.3.2</p>	
	<p>Hand brake rods shall be not less than 3/4 in. diameter.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 2.3.3</p>	
	<p>There shall be four sill steps.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 3.1</p>	
	<p>Sill steps shall conform to the requirements of Standard S-2042. Minimum usable length of tread shall be not less than 12 in.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 3.2.1</p>	
	<p>Sill steps shall be of steel not less than 1/2 in. thick and not less than 2 in. wide.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 3.2.2</p>	
	<p>Sill steps shall have sufficient treads such that the top tread is not more than 21 in. below the lowest adjacent side handhold. Sill step treads shall be spaced not more than 21 in. apart.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 3.2.3</p>	
	<p>The clear depth above the entire usable length of all sill step treads shall be not less than 8 in. and the clear width of the lowest sill step tread shall be not less than 6 in. for both loaded and empty conditions with the trucks rotated to simulate the maximum curvature specified for the uncoupled car.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 3.2.4</p>	
	<p>One sill step shall be applied near each end of each side of the car. The sill steps shall be located in the longitudinal direction such that the inside face of the outboard vertical leg of the sill step is not more than 2 in. inboard of the outboard clearance point of any side handhold. The inside face of the inboard vertical leg of the sill step shall be not less than 10 in. from the outboard clearance point of any side handhold.</p> <p>In the transverse direction, the outside edge of any sill step tread shall be not more than 6 in. inboard or outboard of the inside surface of the lowest adjacent side handhold. In addition, the outside edge of any sill step tread shall be not more than 4 in. inboard of any car structure below the clear length of the lowest adjacent side handhold.</p> <p>The lowest tread shall be not more than 24 in., preferably not more than 22 in., above the top of rail.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 3.3.1</p> <p>Appendix A1, 3.3.2</p> <p>Appendix A1, 3.3.3</p>	



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ITEM	Number - Dimensions - Location - Manner of Application	Appendix Reference	Notes
Manner of Application	Sill steps shall be securely fastened.	Appendix A1, 3.4	
Side Handholds	There shall be 16 side handholds, 4 near each end on each side of the car.	Appendix A1, 4.1	
Dimensions	Handholds shall be of steel not less than 3/4 in. diameter and shall conform to the requirements of Standard S-224. Minimum clear length shall be 16 in. Minimum clearance shall be 2 in., preferably 2 1/2 in. The lowest side handhold at each corner shall have a foot guard or upward projection not less than 2 in. in height at its inboard end.	Appendix A1, 4.2	
Location	<p>The side handholds shall be oriented horizontally and spaced not more than 19 in. apart, with the lowest handhold located not more than 21 in. above the top tread of the sill step. Spacing between side handholds shall be uniform within a maximum variation of 2 in.</p> <p>There shall be a side handhold aligned with each end handhold. Individual side handholds shall coincide in height with corresponding end handholds within a maximum variation of 2 in.</p> <p>The clearance points of the outboard end of the side handholds shall be not more than 10 in. inboard of, and no farther outboard than, the inside surface of the end handholds.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 4.3.1</p> <p>Appendix A1, 4.3.2</p> <p>Appendix A1, 4.3.3</p>	
Manner of Application	Side handholds shall be securely fastened.	Appendix A1, 4.4	
End Handholds	There shall be 16 end handholds, 4 near each side on each end of the car.	Appendix A1, 5.1	
Dimensions	Handholds shall be of steel not less than 3/4 in. diameter and shall conform to the requirements of Standard S-224. Minimum clear length shall be 16 in. Minimum clearance shall be 2 in., preferably 2 1/2 in. The lowest end handhold at each corner shall have a foot guard or upward projection not less than 2 in. in height at its inboard end.	Appendix A1, 5.2	
Location	<p>The end handholds shall be oriented horizontally and spaced not more than 19 in. apart, with the lowest handhold located not more than 21 in. above the top tread of the sill step nor more than 45 in. above the top of rail. Spacing between end handholds shall be uniform within a maximum variation of 2 in.</p> <p>There shall be an end handhold aligned with each side handhold. Individual end handholds shall coincide in height with corresponding side handholds within a maximum variation of 2 in.</p> <p>The clearance points of the outboard end of the end handholds shall be not more than 10 in. from the inside surface of the side handholds.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 5.3.1</p> <p>Appendix A1, 5.3.2</p> <p>Appendix A1, 5.3.3</p>	
Manner of Application	End handholds shall be securely fastened.	Appendix A1, 5.4	



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ITEM	Number - Dimensions - Location - Manner of Application	Appendix Reference	Notes
Manner of Application	There shall be two end platforms.	Appendix A1, 6.1	
Dimensions	End platforms shall conform to the requirements of Standard S-226. The platform material shall have uniform slip-resistant surfaces and shall be of construction to provide sufficient clear opening to permit elimination of accumulated snow and ice. The thickness from the mounting surface to the top of tread shall be not less than 3/8 in. and not more than 2 in. End platform width shall be not less than 8 in. The preferred length for end platforms is 60 in. Platforms shall not be shorter than 60 in. but may be longer if a longer length is necessary to comply with the requirements of 6.3.1.	Appendix A1, 6.2	
Location	<p>One end platform shall be applied on each end of the car between end handholds. The center of the outer mounting holes shall be not more than 7 3/4 in. from the clearance points of the nearest end handholds. The end platform shall be centered between the end handholds and, where practicable, at the center of the car end.</p> <p>Where conventional draft gears or cushioning devices having less than 6 in. longitudinal coupler travel in buff are used, the outside edge of the end platforms shall extend no farther from the end of the car than the striker or end of the center sill. Where draft gears or cushioning devices having 6 in. or greater longitudinal coupler travel in buff are used, the outside edge of the end platforms shall extend not more than 6 in. beyond the striker or end of the center sill with the cushioning device (if used) at full buff.</p> <p>The platform-support surface of the mounting brackets shall be not more than 3 in. above nor more than 4 3/8 in. below the top surface of the lowest end handhold.</p> <p>Minimum vertical clearance above the end platform, measured from the end-platform mounting brackets, shall be not less than 7 in., except for the hand brake rod, hand brake chain, bell crank, and sheave wheel. No part of the car end or fixture on the car end above the end platform and less than 84 in. above the end-platform mounting brackets, other than the hand brake, hand brake rod, hand brake chain, bell crank, sheave wheel, horizontal end-platform handhold, and end-platform handhold support, shall extend closer to the outside edge of the end platforms than 8 in. When car construction does not permit 8 in. clearance to be provided, not less than 5 in. clearance shall be provided.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 6.3.1</p> <p>Appendix A1, 6.3.2</p> <p>Appendix A1, 6.3.3</p> <p>Appendix A1, 6.3.4</p>	
Manner of Application	Each end platform shall be supported by four mounting brackets. The mounting brackets shall be of steel not less than 3/8 in. thick nor less than 2 in. wide and shall conform to Standard S-226. The mounting brackets shall be securely fastened to the car body. The end platforms shall be securely fastened with two fasteners at each mounting bracket.	Appendix A1, 6.4	



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ITEM	Number - Dimensions - Location - Manner of Application	Appendix Reference	Notes
Horizontal End-Platform Handholds	There shall be two horizontal end-platform handholds.	Appendix A1, 7.1	
Dimensions	Handholds shall be of steel not less than 3/4 in. diameter and shall conform to the requirements of Standard S-224. Handholds with unsupported length greater than 36 in. shall be not less than 1 in. diameter. The unsupported length of 1 in. diameter handholds shall not be greater than 72 in. It is preferred that the clear length of the end-platform handholds be not less than 60 in. Minimum clearance shall be 2 in., preferably 2 1/2 in.	Appendix A1, 7.2	
Location	<p>One horizontal end-platform handhold shall be applied on each end of the car above the end platform and between end handholds. The transverse distance between the clearance points at the ends of the end-platform handholds and the clearance points at the inboard ends of the corresponding end handholds shall not exceed 6 in.</p> <p>Horizontal end-platform handholds shall preferably coincide in height with the top end handholds, but shall be within a maximum variation of 2 in. Height from the top of the end-platform handhold to the platform-support surface of the end-platform mounting brackets shall be not less than 50 in. nor more than 60 in.</p> <p>Horizontal end-platform handholds shall be located no farther than 6 in. in the longitudinal direction from the corresponding end handholds, measuring from inside surface to inside surface. This requirement applies to the entire length of end-platform handholds and end handholds.</p>	<p>Appendix A1, 7.3.1</p> <p>Appendix A1, 7.3.2</p> <p>Appendix A1, 7.3.3</p>	
Manner of Application	Horizontal end-platform handholds shall be securely fastened.	Appendix A1, 7.4	
Clearance at End of Car	No part of the car above the end sill more than 30 in. from the longitudinal centerline of the car, except the hand brake wheel, hand brake shaft, bell crank, sheave wheel, end platform, or horizontal end handholds, shall extend beyond the striker or end of the center sill with the draft gear or cushioning device (if used) at full buff. No other part of the car end or fixtures on the end above the end sill and less than 84 in. above the end-platform mounting brackets, other than the exceptions herein noted, shall extend beyond the outer face of the striker or end of the center sill.	Appendix A1, 8.0	
Uncoupling Devices	There shall be a minimum of two uncoupling devices that conform to the requirements of the base standard	Appendix A1, 9.0	



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ITEM	Number - Dimensions - Location - Manner of Application	Appendix Reference	Notes
Stenciling	Car initial, numbers and built date stenciled on the car.	49 CFR Part 215.301	
Reflectorization.	Reflectorization must meet all requirements. Attached Drawing	49 CFR Part 224	
Coupler Height	Verify coupler height 31½ inch minimum, 34½ inch maximum.	49 CFR Part 231.31(a)(1)	
Power Brakes	<p>Except for cars equipped with nominal 12-inch stroke (8 ½ and 10-inch diameters) brake cylinders, all cars shall have a legible decal, stencil, or sticker affixed to the car or shall be equipped with a badge plate displaying the permissible brake cylinder piston travel range for the car at Class I brake tests and the length at which the piston travel renders the brake ineffective, if different from Class I brake test limits. The decal, stencil, sticker, or badge plate shall be located so that it may be easily read and understood by a person positioned safely beside the car.</p> <p>All equipment ordered on or after August 1, 2002, or placed in service for the first time on or after April 1, 2004, shall have train brake systems designed so that an inspector can observe from a safe position either the piston travel, an accurate indicator which shows piston travel, or any other means by which the brake system is actuated. The design shall not require the inspector to place himself or herself on, under, or between components of the equipment to observe brake actuation or release.</p>	49 CFR Part 232. 103	
SCT	A single car air brake test shall be performed on each new car prior to placing or using the car in revenue service.	49 CFR Part 232.305	

Miscellaneous Check for any sharp or protruding objects or areas on the equipment that may create a safety concern or personal injury. Check for potential pinch points at all safety appliance arrangements.

Digital Photos General Arrangement Photo Sheet, (six photos minimum, A & B ends, each corner at 45 degree angle) Deviation Photo Sheet ~As many photos as necessary to fully depict, document and illustrate deviations of S-2044 Appendix A1 or CFR Parts (e.g. 215, 224, & 232)