



Load Engineering and Design Services  
P. O. Box 44085  
Speed Code-J815  
Jacksonville, FL 32231-4085  
(800) 327-9715  
Fax (904) 279-6394

### **CSX Safety Bulletin**

Released: January 1, 2018

TO: CSX ISO Tank Shippers  
Re: ISO Tanks on Flatcars

Effective January 1, 2018, ISO Tanks will not be accepted secured on flatcars in Merchandise service.

In recent years flatcars have been requested to ship ISO tanks on flatcars secured with twist locks or other restraint devices. ISO tanks were not designed for a flatcar switching environment and their structures have failed in transit multiple times putting our employees and the general public at risk of a HAZMAT release.

Automatic twist locks used to secure the ISO tanks to the decks of flatcars have been AAR approved for securing ISO containers with a maximum gross weight rating of 80,000 lb., this is 80,000 lbs. for four twist locks, not each. ISO Containers per M-930 are not to be subjected to more than 2 G's of force in the longitudinal direction. The requirements for a "General Rules load", i.e., a load not loaded in accordance with a published loading figure in the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual, require that a load be restrained to a minimum to three G-forces longitudinal, two G-forces lateral, two G-forces vertical. Twist lock manufacturers have stated that the twist locks are not to be in conditions that can subject them to greater than 2G forces.

Due to the tanks themselves not being built to withstand the forces, the twist locks unable to meet the minimum restraint forces, and the history of multiple incidents where ISO tanks have come off railcars in our yards, CSX has ceased to allow them to move on flatcars. As Manager of the Open Top Loading Team for CSX Load Engineering & Design Services, I am responsible for proper securement and safe transit of freight on our railroad. Please accept the notice and advise if there are any questions.

Mitchell McDonald  
Manager – Open Top Loading  
CSX Transportation  
Load Engineering & Design Services