

## **New AAR Loading Rules for Scrap Metals**

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One of the key causes of injuries to railroad employees is slip/trip/fall hazards, which can occur when debris or loose material accumulates in walkways between tracks in rail yards.

Scrap falling from the top of open gondola cars is a major contributor of yard debris. Loose scrap can also create hazards at grade crossings and other areas of public access, such as commuter rail stations.

During the past year increases in incidents have heightened safety concerns. According to the AAR, several member railroads have reported serious injuries, near miss injuries, derailments, and rail car set outs caused by loose scrap metal falling off or hanging from these cars. Railroad employees have been struck by metal scrap hanging from the cars or have tripped over scrap metal lying on the ground. These loads were either improperly loaded or the material was loaded in such a manner as to allow it to migrate over the sides or ends of the cars.

In an effort to address this problem, the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Committee has approved revisions to Figure 87, Section 2 of the Open Top Loading Rules. The major revision is to restrict loose scrap metal to be loaded below the top of rail car sides and ends at any point of the load.

A copy of the appropriate loading rule, demonstrating the approved method for loading scrap, is included for your review:

[Figure 87, Section 2](#) 

With these safety concerns in mind, we ask that you take the time to review your loading practices, and to ensure that scrap is loaded safely within the confines of railcars loaded at your facilities.

CSX Transportation appreciates your efforts in helping to make our industry a safe choice of transportation in the communities we serve. If you would like additional information or loading assistance, please contact CSX Load Engineering & Design Services at 1-800-327-9715, ext. 6373.