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### **CSX Safety Bulletin**

Released: April 20, 2016

TO: CSX Coal Producers  
RE: Balanced Coal Loading

Please review and distribute this reminder to your employees that load rail cars, concerning how critically important it is to load coal in each end of the rail car, in addition to the middle.

Recently CSX has seen an increase in cars that have not been properly loaded at the mine. In the end of each car, is a sensor device which determines the proper amount of braking that needs to be applied to each individual car in a train. When a train needs to slow down or stop, each individual car's brakes are applied in order to accomplish this task. By loading one end of the railcar heavy and the other end light, we are creating an environment which could lead to a derailment as the sensors on the light loaded end 'sense' an empty train and may not apply enough 'braking' to stop the train or worse may apply too much pressure to the heavy end.

The two photos in this letter show an example of one car of an entire train that had to be stopped, in order to re-balance their coal load (at Shipper's expense), before the train could move safely to destination. The first photograph clearly shows only the center of the car is loaded and that the rail car sensor has no coal (weight) loaded on top of it. Thus when the train's air brakes are applied, the sensor applies the brake as an empty car instead of as a loaded car. When this happens, dire consequences can occur!

Also included is a link to the AAR Loading Rules, Section 2 Figure 88 for loading of coal, coke and gondola cars. <https://my.aar.org/otlr>

We would ask that when larger cars, such as the one depicted below, are brought to your load out, please lower the coal loading chute and distribute the coal volume as evenly as possible, from end to end of the car.

If you have any questions please contact CSX Coal Development at 859-252-8553 or 859-252-7049.

Regards,  
John A. Voelker  
Director  
Coal Development

