



January 5, 2021

Dear Customers,

We are asking for your support in resolving a critical safety issue regarding improper loading of scrap metal and steel mill rolls onto railcars. This issue has caused serious incidents in our industry, and we need to work together to prevent future accidents and injuries.

Overloaded scrap metal creates dangerous conditions for our employees and the public. When too much material is loaded into open-top gondolas, loose scrap metal can fall or hang from the cars, creating safety hazards and train delays.

We ask that you take a minute to review [AAR Open Top Loading Figure 87](#), which instructs that all material must be below the top chord of the railcar to be in compliance.

Light scrap metal (loose tin or aluminum stampings, for example) must be secured with wire mesh, netting or material of equal strength to prevent displacement by suction in transit. Heavy or baled scrap may be substituted and loaded on top of light material, provided the height limitation of Note 1 (in Loading Figure 87) is not exceeded.

We ask that you be especially mindful of these points to prevent car failures:

1. Do not load the cars beyond their limits, either by weight or by volume.
2. Do not forcefully compact the material while loading. This introduces/exaggerates railcar defects, including: spread railcar sides; failed, fatigued tub bottoms; broken railcar top cords and safety appliances
3. Do not load railcars unfit for service already exhibiting any of these physical defects.

Additionally, if you ship mill rolls, please familiarize yourself with [AAR Open Top Loading Figure 46](#), which provides the standards for mill rolls in gondola railcars. It is imperative that you ship any scrap mill rolls or other cylindrical scrap subject to rolling under STCC 4021120. Due to safety issues, shipments identified under this STCC code require inspection and approval by railroad personnel prior to shipment.

We rely on your partnership in keeping crews safe and property free of dangerous debris. Noncompliance will result in fines per [CSX Tariff 8100](#). Please take time to review your loading practices and ensure that scrap is loaded safely onto railcars at your facilities.

If you have questions about loading railcars, please contact the Load Engineering and Design team at LEADSOpenTop@csx.com.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Safety is a priority that all of us share, and we want to work with you to ensure your shipments arrive at their destination safely, efficiently and cost effectively.