



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-17

Subject: Applicable Safety Appliance Regulation Governing Bulkhead Flat Cars

From: Edward R. English
Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: Regional Administrators, Deputy Regional Administrators,
Motive Power & Equipment Specialists and Inspectors

There have been several inquiries concerning the applicable safety appliance regulation governing bulkhead flat cars.

Although the Safety Appliance Standards do not specifically address bulkhead flatcars, these cars would be considered a car of special construction. The Code of Federal Regulations 49, Part 231.18 states that cars-of special construction must have as nearly as possible, the same complement of handholds, sill steps, ladders, handbrakes, and running boards that are required for cars of the nearest approximate type.

FRA is of the opinion that this car, with fixed ends above the floor, most closely resembles cars described in Part 231.27, "House and other box cars without hatch covers built or put in service after October 1, 1966".

Therefore, bulkhead flat cars built or placed in service after October 1, 1966 should comply as nearly as possible with all sections of this part.

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