



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-6

Subject: Bottom Rod Safety Support

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

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

Please be advised that "bottom rod safety supports" are only required on those cars that have the bottom rod or handbrake bottom rod below the bolster. There are normally three types of bottom rod safety supports in use. The most common is the heavy wire type (Creco) that fits over the brake beam, with under slung loops to cradle the bottom rod should it become disengaged from the rest of the rigging. The handbrake bottom rod used with the brake beam mounted cylinder, generally has a loop or strip attached to each side of the truck bolster. This allows the handbrake to operate freely and acts as a safety guard. There is an older type that can be attached to the spring plank and a newer cable type.

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