|Rule 88 FAQs

What is Mechanical Reference Repository (MRR)?
The goal behind this application is to centralize critical industry referential data in one location to be shared amongst the AAR, TTCI and Railinc as well as the rail industry. Consolidation of this data reduces inconsistencies, inefficiencies and redundancy of the data across the multiple organizations.

What is AAR Interchange Rule 88?
AAR Interchange Rule 88 sets forth the minimum mechanical requirements for interchange of freight cars as well as the process and documentation required when undertaking changes to freight cars. The new Mechanical Reference Repository Rule 88 module will streamline the submission and approval process by allowing users to submit applications and supporting documents, view the status of their applications, and manage updates. It will also provide a single repository for Rule 88 applications visible to the requester, the AAR, and Railinc. As of December 2014, the MRR application can handle applications for Rebuilt and Modified unit applications.

For more information on Rebuilt and Modified unit requirements, refer to the Office Manual of the AAR Interchange Rules.

How do I request permission to Mechanical Reference Repository (MRR)?
You must have a Railinc user ID to access MRR. If you don't have a user ID, you must register at https://www.railinc.com/ and follow the process to create a user ID and password. Once you have a user ID, select View/Request Permissions and then select the Request button for Mechanical Reference Repository. You will need to select the applicable role.

Where do I purchase the AAR Interchange Rules?
The Office Manual and Field Manual of the AAR Interchange Rules can be purchased at https://www.aarpublications.com. The Office Manual of the AAR Interchange Rules contains Rule 88.

What fees are associated with AAR Interchange Rule 88 requirements?
Appendix E of the Office Manual of the AAR Interchange Rules contains fees associated with Rule 88 requests. The applicable fees must be paid prior to completing a Rule 88 application.

How will I know the status of my application?
As an applicant, you will be able to view your applications by selecting 'My Applications' in Mechanical Reference Repository (MRR). Your submitted applications will appear, and you can select an application to view further detail. The dashboard will display columns such as 'Case Number,' 'Application Type,' and 'Application Status.' In addition, you may use the link in the email notification with the Case Number and link to the MRR application.

How long will it take to get approval?
The approval timeframe depends on the type of application and the required documentation. The Senior Manager, Equipment Engineering Committee (EEC) at TTCI is the coordinator of the Rule 88 Review Process. The Senior Manager will update the application as the application continues through the approval process. If you have specific questions, contact the Senior Manager, Equipment Engineering Committee at EEC@aar.com.

When should I submit the Rule 88 application?
The Rule 88 application should be made as soon as possible after the scope of the application has been determined. It is highly recommended to submit the application prior to starting work on cars in the program. If the applicant is uncertain of the type of application, or if a decision to proceed has not been made, the Senior Manager, Equipment Engineering Committee should be contacted directly first, before creating an application.

What if I have questions about Rule 88?
Railinc's customer service team is available to answer your questions. For more information about Rule 88, contact the Railinc Customer Success Center toll free at (877) 724-5462 or via email at csc@railinc.com.

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