

**What is Component Tracking?**

Component Tracking is a multi-phase, multi-year program to create an industry process and related technology tools for capturing data around railcar equipment components. The ability to view railcar component health data improves safety through the identification of failure trends and a more effective recall process, improves productivity by ensuring that the right equipment stays in service for longer periods, and reduces costs associated with maintenance planning and component recalls.

Why was Component Tracking developed?

Safety is a top priority for the rail industry, which historically has issued expansive recalls to ensure the removal of faulty equipment from service. The result: time-consuming, complicated and costly recalls. Component Tracking leverages existing systems to capture component data, validate component existence, incorporate mileage information and provide visibility into the current health status of equipment and an initial level of visibility into the health-related history of equipment. This information helps industry participants expedite more effective recall management, improve maintenance planning and make informed repair decisions, lowering costs and improving safety.

What are the benefits of Component Tracking?

Component Tracking gives repair shops, equipment owners, reconditioners, classifiers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) visibility into equipment and component health status and history, enabling them to identify wear and failure trends as well as defective components. This visibility delivers three primary benefits:

1. **Safety:** The rail industry achieves greater visibility into the current and historical health status of rail equipment at the component level, enabling users of Railinc's Umler and Car Repair Billing (CRB) systems to identify failure trends, improve the recall process and improve rail safety.
2. **Productivity:** Tracking information on wheelsets, side frames, bolsters and couplers from manufacture to application means that recalls are issued faster and with greater confidence that only components with identified safety issues are included. With more effective recalls, the right equipment stays in service for longer periods.
3. **Reduced Costs:** The capability provided through Component Tracking ensures more targeted recalls and reduces administrative burdens associated with recalls. Industry participants benefit from the reduced costs associated with this recall process.

Who uses Component Tracking and what do they do?

While the entire rail industry—including manufacturers and railroads—will benefit from Component Tracking, the primary industry segments that access and use it are wheel shops, repair shops, equipment owners, reconditioners, classifiers, original equipment managers (OEMs) and third-party software providers. With Component Tracking:

Wheel Shops Can:

- Access higher quality data on wheelsets that they refurbish
- Improve resource planning and supply chain management by identifying application rates
- Query and review tagged wheelsets

Repair Shops Can:

- Improve maintenance planning and prioritize work
- Apply registered wheelsets
- Reconcile work with system records through daily reports
- Query applied and removed wheelset details

Equipment Owners Can:

- Improve equipment productivity and asset utilization
- Make more informed fleet management decisions
- Validate billing more effectively
- Better plan fleet maintenance

Reconditioners and Classifiers Can:

- Access higher quality data on the components that they recondition
- Seed new component registrations
- Query and review tagged components

OEMs Can:

- Request special reports on side frame, bolster and coupler data
- Get greater insight into the quality and failure rate of the components they produce
- Issue smaller, more effective recalls

Third-Party Software Providers Can:

- Integrate component registry capabilities with their products
- Create new, value-added products and services for their customers

How do other rail industry participants benefit from Component Tracking?

All rail industry participants benefit from Component Tracking.

- American Association of Railroads (AAR) subscribers are able to receive notifications on which cars and components are affected by recalls.
- Manufacturers gain greater insight into the quality and failure rate of the components they produce and will be able to issue smaller, more effective recalls.
- Railroads benefit from improved safety and reliability of equipment in service, and a decrease in the number of incidents that lead to property and rail damage.

Is Component Tracking a new Railinc system?

No. Component Tracking is a multi-year, multi-phase program. It is an ongoing effort to create a way for users to view detailed railcar component health data by leveraging Railinc systems such as Umler®, CRB and EHMS.

What level of confidentiality does component data have?

Railinc products and services meet the highest standards for data security and confidentiality. Railinc supports the confidentiality of owner-related information while providing the most value to the industry through safety-related recalls, tracking and health-related inquiries. Examples:

- A wheel shop that is refurbishing a wheelset is able to access historical data related to that specific wheelset. However, a manufacturer is not able to access another manufacturer's component data and view information that would create competitive concerns. Limited high-level data such as the average life of all wheelsets is available.
- A reconditioner that is refurbishing a side frame is able to access historical data related to that specific side frame. However, an OEM is not able to access another OEM's component data and view information that would provide a competitive advantage. Limited high-level data such as the average life of all couplers, side frames and bolsters, which OEMs can use as a benchmark, are available to the public through www.railinc.com.

How can users access component data?

You must have a Railinc Single Sign-On (SSO) account to take advantage of Component Tracking. To create one, go to www.railinc.com, and select the **Customer Login** link in the top right. Next, click **Need Help Signing In** and follow the prompts to create your account. You will receive an email confirmation of your profile, which you must verify within 14 days to unlock your account. If you already have an SSO account, you do not need to create a new one.

Once you have established an SSO account, you must request permission to access Umler, CRB or EHMS—the Railinc systems affected by Component Tracking, once you have logged into the Launch Pad with your SSO account at www.railinc.com. Current users of these systems will not need to request access again. Umler users will notice a new menu tab, **Component Registry**, and EMHS and CRB users will see a new component ID field when they enter data.

How does component data facilitate more effective recalls?

The data will ensure targeted recalls and reduce administrative burdens that industry participants face with recalls. Railinc maintains component details through existing systems that support criteria related to recall requests. If a recall is requested, Railinc will identify all equipment with components that match the recall criteria and provide this information to the AAR, which will file an Equipment Advisory for inspection of the equipment identified for recall.

How does this improve alerts?

The data collected through these enhanced Railinc systems enables data summaries and alerts to be configured based on mileage. This type of enhanced detail provides a more complete view of equipment health and prevents unnecessary alerts on components that are experiencing normal wear, saving equipment owners time and money. It also helps equipment owners improve maintenance planning by providing detail that will enable a better prediction of a component's time to failure.

How does Component Tracking affect the movement of freight?

The ability to view railcar-component health data improves productivity by ensuring that the right equipment stays in service for longer periods. Rail carriers receive better-qualified alerts on components, which helps keep in service cars with components that are not in need of repair or that are not subject to recall.

Will companies be required to use Component Tracking functionality?

Rail industry rules require manufacturers, wheel shops, repair shops, equipment owners, reconditioners, classifiers and OEMs to use Component Tracking functionality. For example, manufacturers are required to provide required data to their wheel shop customers; wheel shops will be required to report mandatory component details to Railinc when assembling a wheelset; and repair shops will be required to report in a timely and accurate way AAR Component ID, equipment ID and equipment location for every wheelset change.

Who is developing the industry rules and standards around Component Tracking and when are they effective?

Representatives from across the industry, including railroads, shops, equipment owners, manufacturers, industry committees and the AAR, are guiding the development of requirements for Component Tracking. Railinc communicates to industry participants the details of any rule changes.

Does Railinc provide Component Tracking training?

Yes. See [Component Tracking](#) for links to all current training materials. Included are demos that teach critical activities related to Component Tracking and access to technical documentation.

Wheelsets

What are Component Tracking Wheelsets?

Component Tracking Wheelsets was the first phase in the program. It includes centralizing the registration of wheelset component details and identifying the application of wheelset components, including AAR and non-AAR repairs. Wheel shops are able to register wheelset components through Umler and report the application of wheelset components via Umler, Car Repair Billing and the Equipment Health Maintenance System (EHMS). Wheel shops can register wheelsets through the Umler system.

How do Component Tracking Wheelsets support future phases?

This multi-year, multi-phase program expands to other components ongoing and will provide long-term benefits to the rail industry. The development of Component Tracking Wheelsets creates a framework and central repository that supports the addition of components such as castings, brake systems and appurtenances.

How do Component Tracking Wheelsets affect existing Railinc systems?

Wheel shops, repair shops, manufacturers and others register wheelset components through Umler and report the application of wheelset components through Umler, CRB and EHMS. Users of these systems are able to register wheelset components through Umler and report the application of wheelset components in CRB and EHMS. Umler, CRB and EHMS users can access Component Tracking functionality through those existing systems. Here is how these existing systems work with Component Tracking:

- **Umler:** Confidential component details and information about component association to equipment are stored in the Umler Component Registry. Component IDs appear in Umler equipment records when associated with an owner's equipment.
- **CRB:** Information about wheelset applications or repairs can be submitted through CRB.
- **EHMS:** Information about wheelset applications or repairs can be submitted through EHMS via Repair Services.

Side Frames, Bolsters and Couplers

What are Component Tracking Side Frames, Bolsters and Couplers?

Component Tracking Side Frames, Bolsters and Couplers were the second phase in the program that focused on side frames, bolsters and couplers. This included centralizing the registration of component details and identifying the component association, including AAR and non-AAR repairs. Users are able to register side frame, bolster and coupler components through Railinc's Umler Component Registry and report the association of these components via the Umler system and Car Repair Billing (CRB). The development of Component Tracking Side Frames, Bolsters and Couplers occurred throughout 2012. Users with permission to access Umler or CRB are able to report data on side frames, bolsters and couplers.

How do Component Tracking Side Frames, Bolsters and Couplers affect existing Railinc systems?

Repair shops, equipment owners, reconditioners, classifiers and OEMs register components through the Umler system and report the association of these components through the Umler system and CRB. Users with permission to access Umler or CRB are able to report data on side frames, bolsters and couplers. Here is how these existing systems function with Component Tracking:

- **Umler:** Confidential component details and information about component association to equipment are stored in the Umler Component Registry. Component IDs appear in Umler equipment records when associated with an owner's equipment.
- **CRB:** Information about bolster, coupler and side frame associations or repairs can be submitted through CRB.

What if I have questions about Component Tracking?

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

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