

Railinc Product Descriptions



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Last Updated: March 2020

Railinc Applications, Databases, and Related Terms

This document provides simplified descriptions of Railinc applications, databases, and related terms. It is intended to be used as a quick reference or as an introduction to Railinc products. Where possible, the terms contain links to more definitive information on <https://public.railinc.com/>.

Notes:

- Items identified with an asterisk (*) are [Industry Reference Files \(IRFs\)](#).
- Certain applications require setup or usage fees (or an application may have prerequisites that have fees). Consult the [Railinc Price List](#) for additional information.

[AAR Embargo/OPSL Notes and Permit System](#) — An application that handles every step of the embargo permit process and enables a railroad to issue instructions to temporarily control traffic movements, amend and cancel an embargo, and grant permits to embargoed destinations. The AAR Embargo System also supports the Official Railroad Station List (OPSL).

- * [AAR Operating-Transportation \(OT-Circulars\)](#) — A collection of rules and recommendations published by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), in consultation with industry experts, that issues guidance on a wide range of topics related to rail transportation.

[AskRail®](#) — A mobile application that provides first responders immediate access to accurate, timely data about what type of hazardous materials a railcar is carrying so they can make an informed decision about how to respond to a rail emergency.

[Asset Health Data Summaries](#) — Data summaries give customers a concise view of equipment health data collected by wayside detectors and help railroads, car owners, and other industry participants make better maintenance, planning and repair decisions. Users may view data summaries via the Equipment Health Management System (EHMS) application and the Equipment Health View (EHV) tool or receive the data summaries via Railinc's web services technology and EHMS subscriptions.

[Asset Information Repository \(AIR\)](#) — A read-only web application that contains asset information from Railinc's Asset Health source-system products, including the Equipment Health Management System (EHMS), the Early Warning System (EW), the Damaged and Defective Component Tracking System (DDCT), Umler, and E-Train. AIR is only available to the seven Class I railroads.

[Billing Repair Card \(BRC\)](#) — A component of the Car Repair Billing application that provides an interface for receiving and transmitting invoices. The interface ensures that all required fields are populated before the BRC is submitted for pricing and performs basic validation on fields.

[Car Accounting Self-Service \(CASS\)](#) — An application that enables car accountants to access and analyze car hire liability data by translating event data into actionable information. CASS also enables railroads to submit a Liability Acceptance Message (LAM) when event reporting has caused car hire responsibility to be assigned to the wrong carrier.

[Car Hire Accounting Rate Master \(CHARM\)](#) — A dataset that helps users manage and understand the costs of rail car use and repair. CHARM contains time and mileage rates effective for the current month and are updated each subsequent month with the appropriate deprecised and prescribed rates effective for the month.

[Car Hire Data Exchange \(CHDX\)](#) — A data exchange that supports the periodic (post-operation) exchange of time and mileage payment information to clarify payables and receivables. Once all car hire payables have been received, each participant's car hire receivables are sorted, prepared, mailed, and summarized so that car hire can be settled in the Railroad Clearinghouse (RCH).

[Car Hire Rate Negotiation Self-Service \(CHRNSS\)](#) — An application that provides a single access point for car hire negotiations. CHRNSS enables users to transition from legacy in-house description bid-and-offer systems to a centralized Railinc-supported solution.

[Car Repair Billing \(CRB\)](#) — An application that enables users to manage billing. Users can submit invoices within CRB through the Car Repair Billing Data Exchange (CRBDX) or the Billing Repair Card (BRC) interface.

[Car Repair Billing Data Exchange \(CRBDX\)](#) — A data exchange that serves as a monthly exchange for receiving and transmitting invoices to registered billed parties. CRBDX utilizes industry rules and requirements to validate received invoices.

[Car Repair Management System \(CRMS\)](#) — An application that optimizes repair shop efficiency by reducing errors and automating shop tasks. CRMS provides up-to-date AAR reference data and end-to-end process support to help shops reduce exceptions and increase billable repairs. CRMS can also be used by car owners and lessees to automate auditing and rebuttal billing.

- * [Centralized Station Master \(CSM\)](#) — A geographic location file that contains data about rail and motor carrier points for North America and international areas. This file is primarily used by railroads to help plan freight movements from origin to destination in an efficient and timely manner.

[Clear Path™ System](#) — An application that helps railroads plan the movement of trains through the Chicago Terminal, the busiest rail gateway in North America. Clear Path is a part of the ongoing Gateway Operations Services program, which focuses on enabling the exchange of timely, accurate, and actionable information to support the Chicago Integrated Rail Operations Center and to facilitate proactive inter-carrier operations in the Chicago Terminal.

[Component Tracking](#) — An application that allows manufacturers to register their component data so they can be associated with railroad equipment later in Ulmer®. Users can report the association of these components via component registry, Car Repair Billing (CRB), and Railinc web services.

- * [Customer Identification File \(CIF\)](#) — An application that contains the name, physical and mailing address, corporate parent identification, and a unique identification code for each location of a transportation carrier customer. The identification code is used in exchanges of shipment information to accurately identify transportation company customers and the customers' locations.

[Damaged Defective Car Tracking System \(DDCT\)](#) — An application that enables users to easily update, retrieve, and share information in a timely manner to facilitate better equipment management, improved rail safety, and reduced administration costs. Damaged cars are handled in accordance with AAR Interchange Rule 107, and defective cars are handled in accordance with AAR Interchange Rule 1, 96, and 108. AAR Interchange Rule 95 is used for any damaged equipment that can be returned to service.

[Early Warning](#) — An application that identifies mechanical problems on rail equipment which could impede the safe movement or handling of equipment. Early Warning provides authorized users a graphical interface to create Early Warning and Maintenance Advisory notices, issue supplements to notices, assign equipment to notices, report inspections and repairs for equipment, and perform queries of notices and equipment.

[Equipment Health Management System \(EHMS\)](#) — An application that communicates the condition of railroad equipment and sends alerts to the responsible parties when repairs are needed. EHMS enables car owners, railroads, and equipment maintenance providers to report equipment repairs and collect repair history data.

[Equipment Health View \(EHV\)](#) — An application that provides users with a single location to look up, download, or input mission-critical railcar health data and report information related to railcar repairs across multiple Railinc systems. Through EHV, users can access multiple Railinc asset health applications without logging into each one.

[Equipment Quality Reporting \(EQR\)](#) — An application that enables users to track cars rejected by shippers and identify the root cause. EQR captures reject data and transmits the relevant information to Class I railroads and equipment owners, ensuring that both the carrier's internal systems and Railinc's systems record the reject data.

- * [FindUs.Rail](#) — A centralized database that enables users to review and manage their company's contact information, helping railroad departments, private car owners, and leasing companies stay connected. FindUs.Rail users can query contacts and agency relationships for industry functions and roles.

[Forward and Store \(F&S\)](#) — A rail industry system that facilitates timely notification for railcars that will be forwarded to carriers participating in an interline rail movement. The originating railroad sends a waybill message (EDI 417) to F&S that checks the transaction for compliance to format and syntax standards.

[Freight Loss Data Exchange \(FLDX\)](#) — A data exchange used to exchange foreign line debits for freight claims and produce settlement reports for railroads that participate in the National Damage Prevention and Freight Loss system. FLDX takes in freight loss data provided by participating railroads and forwards freight claim records and a net settlement report.

- * [HAZMAT](#) — A database that contains Hazardous Materials Regulatory information that allows railroads and customers to properly create EDI transactions and shipping papers for hazardous materials being shipped in the United States, Canada, and internationally. The database allows for error checking when EDI transactions are received from connecting carriers and customers.

[Industry Research Reports](#) — Research reports and presentations that are produced on relevant rail industry topics.

[Interline Service Management \(ISM\)](#) — A database that supports rail industry agreements for handling freight and freight cars among participating rail carriers. It includes the key physical trip events of single-line or multi-line (more than one railroad) shipments, interchange data, and arrival and departure data among other data points.

[Interline Settlement System® \(ISS\)](#) — An application used to negotiate and agree upon the sharing of revenue generated for a movement when two or more roads are involved in the shipment's route. ISS is the method by which the rail industry settles interline freight revenues via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).

[ISA Repository](#) — An application that enables any railroad to enter into an interchange agreement with a partner railroad. The ISA Repository helps railroads in and around major rail gateways operate more effectively by improving their planning and communication with their partners, and by providing convenient access to essential information about interchange agreements.

- * [Junction Interchange File \(JUNC\)](#) — A database that is the basis for identification of inter-carrier activities. This file contains records for each junction abbreviation and pairs of reporting marks that interchange at that junction. It also describes physical locations and defines the types of activities that occur at locations.

[Letter of Authorization \(LOA\)](#) — An application that grants permission to an organization to receive another company's confidential data. In accordance with Railinc's data access policy, these authorizations are necessary to ensure confidentiality and to meet specific regulatory requirements of the rail industry.

[Loading Authority \(OT-57\)](#) — An application that provides a centralized, paperless process for registering private freight rail equipment and access to controlling entity (shipper, owner, or lessee) contact information and storage information. Loading Authority (OT-57) facilitates the potential placement of private freight rail equipment at specified storage locations on a railroad.

- * [Mark Register](#) — A database that records identification codes (reporting marks) for a variety of entities. Marks are used for revenue accounting purposes and to identify the names of railroads or private companies, junction points, stations and interchanging points.

[Mechanical Defect \(MD\) Reports](#) — An application that provides a centralized and automated way to report mechanical defects via Forms MD-11, MD-115, and MD-502 to Railinc for analysis to reduce mechanical service interruptions (derailments and other line of road failures) and to increase yard and shop efficiency.

[Mechanical Reference Repository \(MRR\)](#) — An application that centralizes and automates elements of the AAR Interchange Rule 88 and Running Repair Agent (RRA) processes in a single, easy-to-use application. MRR also allows sponsoring railroads to submit associations with Running Repair Agents at specific locations for approval by the AAR.

[Messaging Service](#) — A central service that moves millions of inbound and outbound transactions daily between railroads and their global trading partners, and through Railinc applications such as Umler®, RailSight™, Interline Settlement System®, Forward and Store, and the Damaged and Defective Car Tracking system.

- * [MidRange Industry Reference File \(MRIRF\)](#) — An application that provides robust search capabilities for Marks, Standard Point Location Codes (SPLC), Centralized Station Masters (CSM), Junction Interchanges, Routes, Standard Transportation Commodity Codes (STCC), and Shipment Condition Files (SCF).

[Multi Level Pool Billing Data Exchange](#) — A data exchange that distributes data to pool participants per the schedule published by Railinc.

- * [National Tariffs](#) — A collection of documents that provide uniform rules for handling shipments by rail, including use of private equipment, heavy-duty flat cars, rate base points, and export shipments.

- * [Official Railroad Station List/OPSL](#) — A critical rail industry publication governing rail geography. The OPSL gives carriers one central source in which to publish an authoritative list of their stations and facilities.

[Rail Document Interchange \(RDI\)](#) — A centralized repository for all documentation required to safely travel on foreign tracks. The purpose of RDI is to centralize the storage of safety documentation for the rail industry while providing timely and accurate exchange of safety rule documents between interline partners to increase the safety of train crew members.

[Rail Service Finder](#) — An application that enables rail customers to find company information, rail-served industries, serving and connecting carriers, station names, and service descriptions by searching company names, addresses, or railroad names.

[Railinc Messaging Console \(RMC\)](#) — An application that enables customers to view messages sent and received through Railinc, retrieve information about message routing configurations and usage patterns, and look up information about trading partners.

[Railinc Publications](#) — A collection of Interline Service publications that Railinc provides to the North American rail industry and its customers that includes Centralized Station Master (CSM), Directory of Hazardous Materials Shipping Descriptions (HAZMAT), Junction (JUNC), Mark, Route, Standard Transportation Commodity Code (STCC), and The Official Railroad Station List (OPSL). Railinc publications are available for purchase by mail or fax.

[Railroad Clearinghouse \(RCH\)](#) — An application that administers and transfers funds among railroads. RCH performs settlements for select financial transactions between railroads and railroad partners including Interline Settlement System (ISS), Car Hire Data Exchange (CHDX), Switching Settlements Data Exchange (SSDX), and Multi Level Pool Billing (MLPB).

[Railroad Mergers and Acquisitions](#) — A list of changes within the rail industry's communication infrastructure, including the Industry Reference Files (IRFs). Railinc's mergers and acquisitions consulting team works with railroads to make sure that all systems are updated, messages are properly routed, and changes are processed for critical industry IT systems including the Umler® system and the Interline Settlement System®.

[RailSight™](#) — A suite of applications designed to deliver rail shipment and equipment management data through a flexible framework that can be adapted to support changing business needs.

[RailSight Demand Trace](#) — A component of the RailSight application that gives access to the complete lifecycle of customer shipments and equipment for more informed decisions and better planning. RailSight Demand Trace gives customers the freedom and flexibility to run as many traces as business needs require.

[RailSight Messaging](#) — A component of the RailSight application that turns a customer's electronic supply chain into an operational asset with the most secure, reliable, and efficient communications available. With deep industry connections, unsurpassed rail-data expertise, and an advanced IT infrastructure, Railinc is uniquely positioned to reduce the delays and high costs associated with other Value Added Networks (VANs).

[RailSight Monitor](#) — A component of the RailSight application that enables users to quickly identify problem cars and shipments with exception reporting and views, easily track equipment for daily operations planning and fleet optimization, and manage loaded and empty equipment. RailSight Monitor gives customers real-time, immediate and actionable information.

[RailSight Track and Trace](#) — A component of the RailSight application that sends out real-time rail data around the clock, tracking railcars and intermodal equipment on more than 560 rail carriers throughout North America. RailSight Track and Trace makes sense of rail equipment, routes and schedules, and empowers users with critical and actionable information on rail equipment shipments by enhancing visibility.

[Railway Accounting Rules \(RAR\)](#) — A document that contains the rules of the Interline Settlement System (ISS) and the Railroad Clearinghouse (RCH). Railway Accounting Rules (RAR) contains general and mandatory freight rules, including overcharge and disbursement rules, arbitration procedures used to settle financial disputes among railroads, and the full Railroad Clearinghouse (RCH) settlement regulations for ISS, Car Hire Data Exchange (CHDX), Freight Loss Data Exchange (FLDX), Switching Settlement Data Exchange (SSDX), and Multi Level Pool Billing (MLPB).

[RAMP-ED](#) — An application that provides a uniform process to submit billing instructions when moving railroad and private freight cars to shop, new lease, next lease, or new points of assignment. Cars moving under RAMP-ED instructions are exception cars, which are empty car movements that fall outside of Association of American Railroads Car Service Rules or private cars returning empty per tariff authority.

[Rate EDI Network \(REN\)](#) — A database and application that provides an electronic means for all North American carriers to define and publish information on rates for rail freight movement of commodities. REN allows any interline railroad or local carrier the means to broker, negotiate, and publish their own freight rates and divisions with an electronic message exchange between carriers supported by the REN application process.

- * [Route File \(ROUTE\)](#) — A file that was initially designed to support the Rate EDI Network (REN). The route code is an amalgamation of two Standard Point Location Codes (origin and destination) with a sequential 4-digit number which identifies revenue routes. Routes in this file may also be utilized to request prices from the REN.
- * [Serving Carrier/Reciprocal Switch \(SCRS\)](#) — A reference file that provides a standardized verification process of whether a railroad may serve, or under what conditions a railroad may serve, a specific customer at common service points.
- * [Shipment Conditions File \(SCF\)](#) — A reference file that qualifies the application of a price due to certain shipment conditions other than origin, destination, commodity, and weight. Shipment conditions can include anything from equipment types to accessorial services and annual volume agreements, and are contained in tariffs and other price lists in a language that describes the price qualifiers.
- * [Standard Point Location Code \(SPLC\)](#) — A SPLC is assigned to all stations registered by rail carriers. Between six to nine digits, this numeric code is used to specify the physical location of a station. SPLCs are integral for relating Centralized Station Master records to other industry reference file data and are also used with assigned Junction abbreviations along with location name and state.

- * [Standard Transportation Commodity Code \(STCC\)](#) — A publication containing specific product (commodity) information used on waybills and other shipping documents. Assignment of a STCC Code is associated with a commodity description developed to conform with exact descriptions in freight transportation classifications of rail and motor carriers.

[Steelroads](#) — An application that provides sponsored users, who are also waybill parties, with a central website to conduct, track, and trace rail shipments, and a key source of industry reference information.

[Switching Settlements Data Exchange \(SSDX\)](#) — A monthly financial exchange that offers railroads of all sizes an automated, standardized way to process switching charges.

[Tank Car Application for Approval and Certificate of Construction](#) — An application that provides a centralized location for all documents related to the tank car application process including the application, drawings, Independent Third Party (ITP) checklists, and automated billing for certification services. This is utilized by the AAR to respond to customer needs.

[Tank Car Integrated Database \(TCID\)](#) — An application that provides the ability to create a new inspection, implement a batch import and delete, edit, submit or download an open inspection. TCID was designed to consolidate the information on the AAR forms R-1, R-2, and stubsill inspections.

[The Umler® System](#) — An application that is the source of critical data for more than two million pieces of North American rail, steamship, and highway equipment. The Umler system provides secure access for equipment management and reporting tools, helping equipment owners provide high-quality data to logistics partners and customers.

[Umler® Special Reports/Analytics](#) — Reports and analytics that provide insight into rail and intermodal logistics utilizing the rail industry's most comprehensive sources of freight-rail data. Information can be accessed through downloads, custom analysis, or advanced data visualization tools, yielding logistics insights to support better business decisions.