

Module 6

Section C: Identify Rail Transportation Characteristics

Term

Carload lot

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Container on a flatcar (COFC)

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Rail gauge

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Trailer on a flatcar (TOFC)

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A specialized form of containerization in which rail, motor, and sea transport coordinate.

A shipment that qualifies for a reduced freight rate because it is greater than a specified minimum weight. Since carload rates usually include minimum rates per unit of volume, the higher LCL (less than carload) rate may be less expensive for a heavy but relatively small shipment.

A specialized form of containerization in which motor and rail transport coordinate. Syn.: piggyback.

The spacing of the width of the rails on a railway track, measured between the inner sides of the rails. In rail transport, this is a key parameter in determining interoperability, since all vehicles must have running gear that is compatible with the spacing. This can vary between countries and cause compatibility issues.