

# MRH

## Questions, Answers and Tips



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: I want to know if some of my freight cars are the right kind and are numbered correctly for the railroad I model. A guy at the club said to look them up in an ORER. What's that?**

**A:** The *Official Railway Equipment Register* (ORER) is published four times a year by United Business Media. It was originally produced by the National Railway Publication Company.

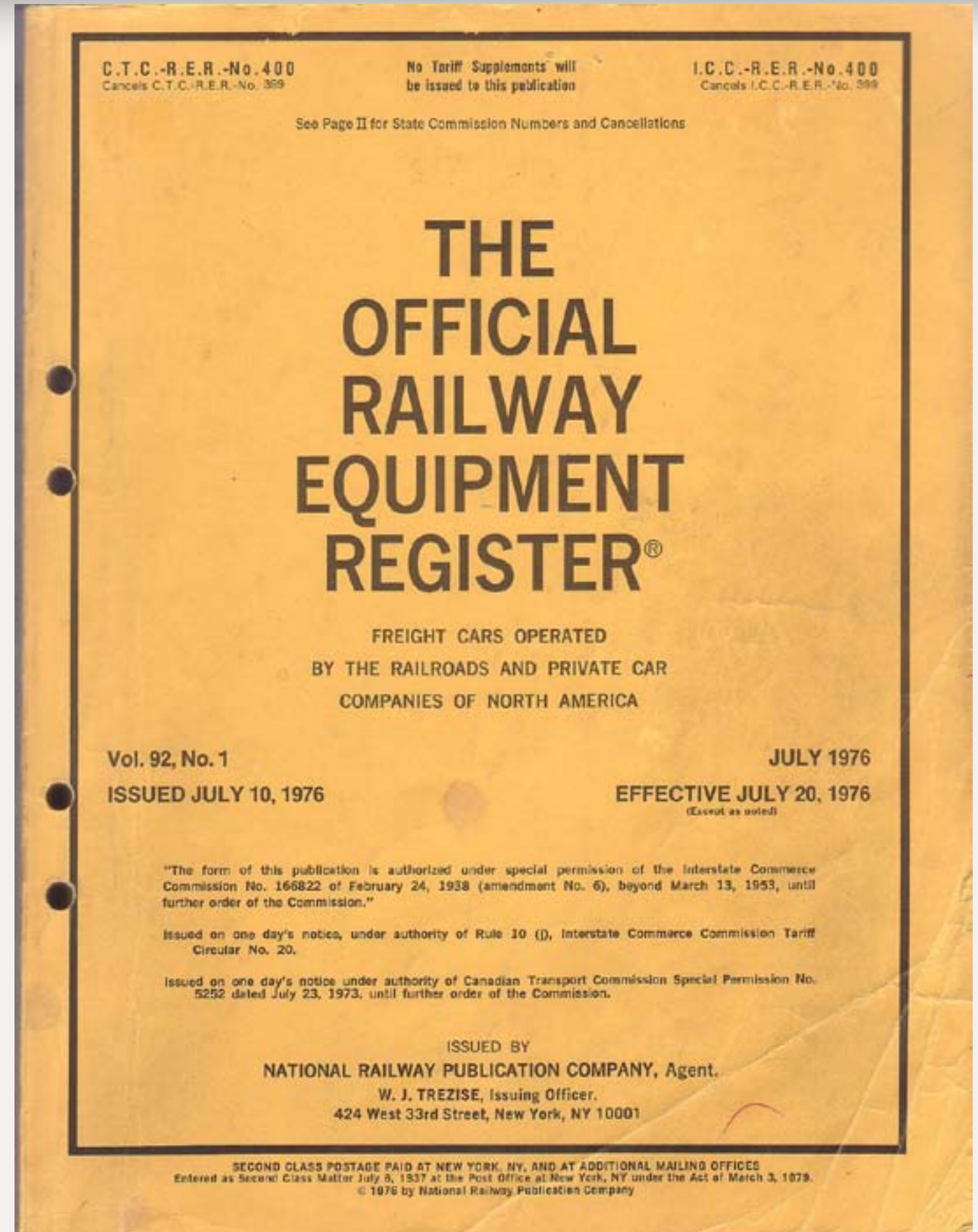
It lists railroads and private car owners, reporting marks, company officers, head offices, connections and junction points and a large amount of useful Association of American Railroads data on car use, car

designations, and clearance diagrams.

The car listings include the AAR mechanical designation for the car type, a general description, the car type code, number series, inside and outside dimensions, door specs, capacity, and the number of cars in the series.

The reporting marks and numbers are always stenciled on the car. Many also show the car type (like XM for box car and FD for a depressed center flat car) and the type code, like G442, for a gondola (GB) 61' or over with a wood floor, sides 36" tall or higher, and drop ends.

What it does *not* include are photos of the cars or the builders. So it's a good tool for the prototype modeler, but not the answer to every question.



**Figure 1: The Official Railway Equipment Register (ORER) lists railroads and private car owners, reporting marks, company officers, head offices, connections and junction points and a large amount of useful Association of American Railroads data on car use, car designations, and clearance diagrams. The cover image shown here is from an edition published in 1976.**



## THE TOLEDO TERMINAL RAILROAD COMPANY

Reporting Marks and ACI Nos.—"TT"—0 771  
Uniform Alphabetic Code and ACI No.—"TT"—0 771

GENERAL OFFICES: 3648 Hoffman Road, Toledo, OH 43611 (419)729-4651

## GENERAL OFFICERS

W. Henschell, Jr., President & General Manager	Toledo, OH 43611	F. A. Shuster, Chief Engineer	Toledo, OH 43611
R. L. Hintz, Vice-President	Cleveland, OH 44101	J. R. Bricker, Superintendent Transportation	Toledo, OH 43611
W. F. Hunt, Secretary & Treasurer	Toledo, OH 43611	D. J. Albright, Superintendent	Toledo, OH 43611
Doris Stull, Asst. Secretary & Treasurer	Toledo, OH 43611	G. F. Mecklenburg, Chief Mechanical Officer	Toledo, OH 43611
J. Myszak, General Auditor	Toledo, OH 43611		

Miles of road Operated, 79.58.

## FREIGHT CONNECTIONS AND JUNCTION POINTS

Ann Arbor Toledo (Hallett), OH	Chesapeake & Ohio—Southern Region Walbridge, OH	Detroit, Toledo & Inerton Temperance, OH	Peen Central Air Line Jct., OH
Baltimore & Ohio Bates, OH	Detroit & Toledo Shore Line Lang, OH	Norfolk & Western Gould, OH	Stanley, OH
Chesapeake & Ohio—Northern Region Walbridge, OH		Toledo (Front St.), OH	Toledo, Angola & Western Hill Ave., Toledo, OH

## TOOELE VALLEY RAILWAY COMPANY

Reporting Marks and ACI Nos.—"TOV"—0 782  
Uniform Alphabetic Code and ACI No.—"TOV"—0 782

GENERAL OFFICES: 35 N. Broadway, Tooele, UT 84074

## GENERAL OFFICERS

D. H. Lee, President & Superintendent	Tooele, UT 84074	D. E. Lombard, Secretary & Treasurer	Tooele, UT 84074
D. E. Salisbury, Vice-President	Salt Lake City, UT	J. Torreyson, Auditor	Tooele, UT 84074

Miles of road Operated, 9.42. Equipment: Locomotives—diesel-electric, 1. Other: Caboose, 2.

Limit of load allowed to pass over this line in excess of marked capacity, 10%.

Freight cars owned are not used in interchange service.  
Report movements and mileage or per diem to D. H. Lee, President & Superintendent, 35 N. Broadway, Tooele, UT 84074.  
Make drafts for per diem, interline freight and ticket balances on J. Torreyson, Auditor, through the Continental Bank and Trust Co., Salt Lake City, UT.

Send bills for repairs to cars to J. Torreyson, Auditor, 35 N. Broadway, Tooele, UT 84074.  
For application of embargoes under Car Hire Rule 18 see Embargo Regulations and Instructions issued by Association of American Railroads.  
Address embargo notices, embargo releases and notices of cars held under Car Hire Rules to D. H. Lee, Superintendent, 35 N. Broadway, Tooele, UT 84074.

## FREIGHT CONNECTIONS AND JUNCTION POINTS

Union Pacific Warner, UT	Western Pacific Warner, UT
-----------------------------	-------------------------------

## THE TORONTO, HAMILTON AND BUFFALO RAILWAY COMPANY

Reporting Marks and ACI Nos.—"THB"—0 774  
Uniform Alphabetic Code and ACI No.—"THB"—0 774

GENERAL OFFICES: Hamilton, ON, Can.

Do not confuse cars of this Railway with those of the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Company.

## FREIGHT EQUIPMENT

Cars are marked "Toronto, Hamilton &amp; Buffalo Ry." and "THB" and are numbered and classified as follows:

A.A.R. Mech. + Desig. No.	DESCRIPTION	A.A.R. Car Type Code	NUMBERS	DIMENSIONS												CAPACITY		No. of Cars
				INSIDE			OUTSIDE				DOORS					Cubic Feet Level Full	Lbs. (000)	
				Length	Width	Height	Length	Width	Height from Rail	Side								
										To Eaves or Top of Sides or Platform	Extreme Width	To Extreme Width	To Eaves or Top of Sides or Platform	To Extreme Height	Width of Opening			
ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.			
See Explanation Pages for Abbreviations & Symbols																		
"THB"																		
HT	Hop. St.	H250	1200-1249	40 8	10 4	7 5	41 8	10 5	10 5	10 8	10 8	10 8		2773	170	44		
LD	Covered Hop. St., Cylindrical, Self-Clearing	L051	1900-1949	41 2	10 7		53 9	9 7	10 8	8 9	14 0	15 1		3000	200	40		
FM	Flat, St.	F101	1800-1899	52 6	10 2		53 2	10 3	10 3	3 5	3 5	3 5			132	94		
GB	Gond., St., Fixed Ends, Wood Fr., Load Limit 170000 lbs.	G212	2300-2549	52 6	9 6	3 8	52 6		10 4			7 3		1746	165	230		
GB	Gond., St., Fixed Ends, Wood Fr., Roller Bearings	G212	2500-2699	52 6	9 6	3 0	52 6		10 4			7 3		1746	200	90		
LD	Covered Hop. St., 8 Sliding Doors	L051	2800-2899	36	10 6	10 6	42 6	9 10	10 7	12 3	13 1	13 8		3300	165	89		
XM	Box, St., Wood Lined, 25K	B105	3300-3299	40 6	9 2	10 6	41 10	9 11	10 8	13 6	13 11	15 1	8	9 13	3900	132	231	
XM	Box, St., Wood Lined, 50K	B105	3300-3599	40 6	9 2	10 6	41 10	9 11	10 8	13 6	13 11	15 1	8	9 13	3900	132	93	
XM	Box, St., Wood Lined, 60K	B108	3600-3849	40 6	9 2	10 6	41 10	9 11	10 8	13 6	13 11	15 1	8	9 13	3900	132	241	
GBR	Gond., St., Fixed Ends, Wood Fr., 3 Sectional Removable Covers, Load Limit 170000 lbs.	E300	4300-4514	52 6	9 6	3 6	52 6	7 1	10 4	8 4		8 4		1746	165	15		
GBR	Gond., St., Fixed Ends, Wood Fr., DF Loaders, 3 Sectional Removable Covers, (Call St. for Automotive Industry)	E340	4700-4709	52 6	9 6	3 6	52 6		10 4			8 4		1746	160	10		
Total																		1183

For balances due The Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway Company, remit to J. D. Crossgrove, 1201 Treasurer, Hamilton, ON, in United States or in Canadian funds as the case may be. For Settlement due you of traffic, mileage, per diem and claim balances payable in United States funds.

draw against this Company through the Agency, Bank of Montreal, 84 Wall St., New York, NY and for balances payable in Canadian funds through the Bank of Montreal, Hamilton, ON.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

**For example:** You have a model of Union Pacific covered hopper 13424. Turning to page 643 in the July 1976 ORER, we find it's an LO — a covered hopper — with a trough loading hatch the full length of the car, part of the number series 13400-13424, 54'6" long and 10' tall on the inside, and 58'4" long outside. The maximum capacity is 4740 cubic feet or 199,000 pounds. The outside length given is "length between pulling faces of couplers in normal positions (fractions rounded up to next even inch)."

You can subscribe to the print or CD editions at [http://www.railresource.com/content/?page\\_id=33](http://www.railresource.com/content/?page_id=33) if you have several hundred dollars to spare. Old copies also turn up on web sales sites and at railroad swap meets, or through some railroad paper dealers and can cost from \$5 to \$40 and up depending on age and condition.

— Joe Brugger

**Q: What is AAR car classification and how does it work?**

**A:** The AAR car classification is a system of letters and numbers which denote the type and class of both freight and passenger cars by the Association of American Railroads. An excellent source of information on AAR car types can be found on the Operations Special Interest Group (OpSIG website at [opsig.org/pdf/AARFreightCarCodes.pdf](http://opsig.org/pdf/AARFreightCarCodes.pdf).

In the 1970's, the AAR revised the code from two- or three-letter codes

to include numbers in order to better classify cars in its Universal Machine Language Equipment Roster (UMLER).

Modern codes can be found on the BNSF Railroad's website at [www.bnsf.com/EquipmentCharacteristics/js/ec/ECCarTypePage.html](http://www.bnsf.com/EquipmentCharacteristics/js/ec/ECCarTypePage.html). Note that the X type (boxcar) is no longer used and passenger cars are now in Class M!

With this information freight agents can request specific cars from yards for the specific need of the local shippers and local agents are not required to make a physical inspection of a car to determine if it will meet the requirements of a local outbound shipper.

— Jim Duncan

**Q: My small switcher loco keeps stalling in my yard, but all my other locos work fine. What could be causing my problem?**

**A:** Short wheelbase locomotives can stall on the frog of a switch which is not powered, as well as stop running on short stretches of dirty track.

Because of the loco's shorter wheelbase, its lighter weight, and less coasting effect from the motor's flywheel (less mass because of smaller hood space), small engines can more easily lose contact and run more erratically.

Yard trackage may become neglected when cleaning rails since those tracks

Figure 2: The Here's a page from the Official Railway Equipment register showing equipment on the TH&B railway (July 1976).