



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-55

Subject: Brake Hoses on Cars Equipped with 15" End-of-Car Cushioning Units

From: Edward R. English
Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: Regional Administrators, Deputy Regional Administrators,
Motive Power & Equipment Specialists and Inspectors

It has been brought to our attention that some freight cars have undergone modifications that includes the installation of a 15" end-of-car cushioning unit, which if not properly installed and maintained, can develop a crimped brake hose condition. Often when the draft system is converted or improperly maintained, brake hose free play can be reduced, thus causing the brake hose to bind in either full buff or full draft positions.

Inspectors need to be vigilant for signs of brake hose deterioration, especially on cars with modified draft systems. If such conditions are found, immediately report them to the railroad. Also forward the findings to the Regional MP&E Specialist, so data can be collected to determine if a widespread problem exists with a specific series of cars.

#