

NEW RAIL CAR HELPS BETTER PROTECT PULP DURING SHIPPING

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MODIFIED DESIGN COMBATS MOISTURE PROBLEMS

WORKING WITH GEORGIA-PACIFIC, GE CAPITAL Rail Services has developed a new boxcar that will help rail shippers who transport baled pulp to reduce inside product damage caused by condensation.

When pulp bales are shipped to a paper mill, the pulp can be as hot as 150° F, with up to 30% water content. If the bales are shipped immediately in a standard closed boxcar, the condensation becomes trapped inside, creating a rain forest environment, and the pulp remains wet throughout shipping. Some shippers address the problem by letting the pulp sit in the boxcars with the doors open until the bales dry, which may take several days.

In addition, moisture condensation on exposed metal can cause rust inside boxcars, which may eventually contaminate the pulp. Water drops can also form on the ceiling and fall like rain on the bales below, bleaching out identifying stencils. In hot weather, water forms inside the car, causing bales to stick to the sides of the car. In cold weather, the water freezes and bales stick to the inside walls of standard boxcars.

The newly designed "Plate C" 100-ton boxcar provides increased air flow capacity and a way for water to drain from the car, keeps the bales away from the sides of the car, and ensures that rain or snow does not enter the vents once the boxcar is in motion.

Vents placed at the lower sides of the cars and on the top sides or roofs allow air to circulate through the cars through convection. A floor drainage system is also installed in the modified box cars.

A slick paint is applied to the inside walls of the cars to quickly remove condensation that might otherwise drip on the pulp or freeze and cause damage. Rub rails

installed inside the cars keep the bails from sticking to moist walls and provide a gap to allow air to circulate.

The effectiveness of the design was tested using the old Augusta Railroad shortline serving Georgia Pacific. "When we unloaded the pulp, the car with the Pulp Protector system was exceptionally dry. There was a 75% improvement over other cars not using this system," said Pat McAdams, manager of transportation at Georgia Pacific's Leaf River Pulp Operation in New Augusta, MS.

For the shortlines serving mills, the Pulp Protector system will increase the flexibility of car loading, provide maximum loading

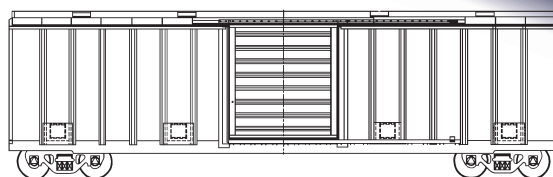
weight, allow Plate C acceptability by customers and provide multiple assignment locations, including Leaf River, MS, and Bellingham, WA.

GE Capital Rail Services, headquartered in Chicago, IL, is a service provider to rail businesses worldwide, offering a diverse railcar fleet and leasing options. It and other providers offer a variety of equipment, ranging from covered hopper cars to tank cars, boxcars to pressure differential cars, coal cars to specialty cars.

In choosing a rail service, customers can consider various leasing options, including per diem, fixed, operating and finance leases, sales/leasebacks and other structured financial products. Some providers, such as GE Rail, also offer repair, maintenance and administrative services.

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A drawing of the specially modified rail car

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