

**ISM – RIF Quality Assurance Committee
Telephone Conference - Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2003**

A meeting of the ISM – QAC was held at 11:00 am EST March 28, 2003 via telephone conference for the purpose of reviewing subcommittee activities.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kurt Gansauer opened and called the meeting to order.

ATTENDEES: The following members or participants were in attendance: Kurt Gansauer, Ed Hildebrand, Brian Blackwell, Dick Brodeur, Pat McDonald, Morella Rendulich, Fritz Horn, Bill Legant, Mark Lumadue, Bill Smith, Jon Endrason, and Terry Schindler.

ANTI-TRUST STATEMENT: Following a roll call of participants, Chairman Gansauer read the Anti-trust Disclaimer statement and reminded all participants of their responsibilities.

MEMBERSHIP: Chairman Gansauer noted that we are still seeking to fill the position of Chairman of the committee. Luigi Armano has recommended Martin Quintal with the Canadian Pacific Railway. No other nominations were submitted. Chairman Gansauer indicated that he would meet with Mr. Quintal at the upcoming RIF meeting in Nashville and update him on committee activities including a hand-off of Chairman responsibilities.

RIF MEETING PRESENTATION: Chairman Gansauer indicated that he will be making a presentation of the ISM – RIF QAC Background, Highlights and Accomplishments, Use by the Railroad Industry, and Perspective/Mission for the Future at the upcoming RIF meeting in Nashville, TN on May 19th. A broad discussion involving several participants ensued. Brian Blackwell raised the issue of overlap and redundancy of efforts between the ISM – RIF QAC and the AAR QAC and that it might be the time to consider a sunset for the ISM – RIF QAC. Several issues regarding the mission and vision of both organizations were discussed. Perhaps now is the time to direct more time and focus on the AAR – QAC so that we don't have two (2) levels of standards. It was felt that there is a need for the ISM – RIF QAC within the industry. Railroad purchasing and Quality Vice Presidents have made a commitment to be in attendance at the May 19th meeting to discuss in detail the future plans and benefits of supporting the ISM – RIF group. Chairman Gansauer requested assistance in developing our presentation. A sub-committee comprised of Dick Brodeur and Pat McDonald will gather and incorporate ideas into a proposal by May 1st to be incorporated into the May 19th presentation. This is our opportunity to entice and excite the executive committee and gather their support and guidance for our future.

WARRANTY WORKING GROUP: Bill Smith and Jon Endrason were in attendance to update the committee on their groups efforts to develop a standard for bar code identification of railroad industry components based upon an original request from the RIF-QAC. The efforts involved input and approval by the various AAR committees including the Executive Committee and will be out for public review shortly. They indicated that the coding system will apply to all Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM's) and component re-manufacturers and further explained that it is essentially a component number that is similar to a social security that provides a cradle-to-grave unique identifier. Currently the specification addresses 16-freight car and 32 locomotive components. John explained that the group has been recently meeting with the Department of Defense (DOD) to incorporate the MIL standard unique item identifiers into the Spec2000 standard. A draft of the Spec2000 is available on the ISM-RIF web site. The next conference call is scheduled for April 1st at 1:00 PM CST. Bill agreed to provide Chairman Gansauer with a couple of slides by May 1st for inclusion in the May 19th upcoming RIF meeting presentation.

RSI – QAC: Brian Blackwell updated the members on the efforts of the Quality committee for the combined Quality conference scheduled for September. He indicated that there are ongoing efforts to develop the advertising campaign and that ads will be placed with Progressive Rail and Railway Age magazines.

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REGISTRY UPDATE: Ed Hildebrand updated the committee indicating that the last quarterly issue of the Pocket List contained the old list and that the list will be updated shortly.

ISM REPRESENTATIVE: The question was asked if Luigi Armano was going to continue to be the RIF QAC representative to the ISM.

ISM – RIF WEB SITE: It was noted that our web site has been converted to the Institute of Supply Management and can be accessed at www.ismrif.org/quality .

NEW BUSINESS: No new business items were identified or discussed.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 EST.

Submitted by: Terry L. Schindler