

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

Customer and Carrier Advisory

September 16, 2024

CA-24-09-16-0050

Subject: Rail Chain Use, Ordering, and Securement

Purpose: To clarify separation of DODX/commercial chains, ordering instructions, and proper securement of chains.

Effective: Immediately

Be Advised: DODX and commercial rail car tiedown chains are not interchangeable and should never be comingled. DODX chains SHALL NOT be used on commercial cars and commercial chains SHALL NOT be used on DODX rail cars. Using different chains on wrong rail cars effects rail car readiness, increases costs to the car owner, and decreases awareness of inventory levels of spare chains at power projection/training locations.

To order spare DODX chain sets (36 chains), installations will need to submit a completed FORM DD250 and email it to the SDDC point of contact. Commercial chains may be ordered by the servicing rail carrier using the Association of American Railroads (AAR) Rule 85 or by contacting the TTX point of contact listed.

Rail car tiedown chains that are not properly secured become safety hazards and can easily fall over the side or end of the car. In accordance with SDDCTEA MI 55-19, Section I, Paragraph E.c on page 12, it is also important to ensure unused chains are properly stored inside tiedown channels to prevent the chains from vibrating across the deck and into inspection holes or off the side of the car.

There have been numerous reports over the past year from rail carriers about dragging equipment detectors causing trains with military cargo to be stopped for inspections immediately on the main line of the rail network. This causes congestion on rail networks, consumes crew hours, and delays shipments. Actual dragging chains found have caused damage to equipment and can be the source of train derailments.

ALL rail car tiedown chains SHALL be secured properly within the chain channels as described in the SDDC TEA Modal Instruction (MI-19). Download the most current Tiedown Instructions for Rail Movements (MI 19 Rail) at:
<https://www.sddc.army.mil/sites/TEA/Functions/Deployability/TransportabilityEngineering/Pages/default.aspx>

SDDC/Commercial POCs: Rail Fleet Management Operations group email: usarmy.scott.sddc.mbx.dodx@army.mil Phone:618-220-1730.

DODX Chain orders: Contact the Rail Fleet Equipment Specialists at usarmy.scott.sddc.mbx.dodx@army.mil

Commercial Chain orders: Contact your commercial serving railroad

Expiration: N/A

Category: Rail