

Car Repair Billing (CRB)

P R O B L E M

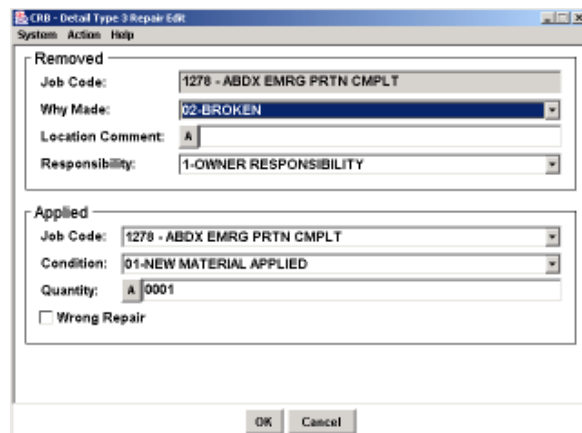
Frequently, freight car repairs are recorded on a paper Billing Repair Card. These records are later sent to a central office to be entered into a computer system for billing. When the repair record is submitted to the central office, illegible repairs can result in data entry errors. In addition, inconsistent and redundant repair recording, and an inadequate knowledge of AAR guidelines can result in poor documentation, incorrect repair records, and delayed billing.

S O L U T I O N

The Car Repair Billing (CRB) Application and state of the art pen-based computer systems allow for “at the equipment” data entry of inspections and repairs. Complex repair requirements and the governing rules of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) are the backbone of the CRB application. Select lists and required fields simplify complex rules and decisions so that repairs are entered correctly the first time.

APPLICATION CAPABILITIES

- The ability to communicate real-time with a central server while in the field through a wireless network.
- The ability to record repairs while connected or disconnected from the central server.
- User prompts and select lists ensure repair entries follow AAR rules.
- Real-time validation of repairs to ensure completeness and correctness.
- Real-time notifications of errors, so repairs are corrected immediately.
- The ability to send and retrieve repairs between the user and the central server.
- Access to car lists based on train ID or track number.
- Key car information including; mechanical status, air brake test date, hazardous materials indicator, high/wide clearance and leased car provisions.



(Example CRB menu screen.)

- Access to work orders and the ability to bad order the car from the field.
- The ability to print work orders and original records of repair on a shop printer while in the field.
- Automated pricing based on AAR Price Master and/or negotiated rates.
- The ability to generate paper invoices and an electronic Railinc file.
- The ability to generate standardized reports for accounting estimates and daily, monthly and trended analysis.

COST SAVINGS ANALYSIS

Item	Calculation	Annual Net Savings ¹
Elimination of clerical position	\$45,000 annual salary * 1 FTE ²	\$ 45,000
Savings on forms and envelopes	Estimated labor and material cost	\$ 500
Reclaimed cost of money due to delayed billing	(\$2M * 20% (delayed billing)) * 1% loss in interest revenue	\$ 4,000
Reduction in repeat failures due to incorrect maintenance	Average of \$10 per car/yr * 200 cars	\$ 2,000
Elimination in misapplied materials	Average of \$5 per car/yr * 200 cars	\$ 1,000
Reduction in cost of maintaining on hand inventory	(\$2M * 40% (material charge)) * 1% reduction in carrying costs	\$ 8,000
Elimination of missed associated repairs	\$2M * 1% reclamation of missed billing	\$ 20,000
Elimination of IS Support Position	\$75,000 annual salary * .5 FTE	\$ 37,500
Total Annual Savings		<u>\$118,000</u>

¹ These amounts are based on a test site with 200 cars and an annual repair billing of \$2,000,000.

² FTE = Full Time Equivalent

B E N E F I T S

Labor Savings

Car man

- Reduction in time referencing the AAR field manual.
- Elimination of interpretation or investigation.
- In the field access to car lists.
- Reduction in time spent filling out reports and increase in the time spent inspecting and repairing cars.

Clerk

- Reduction in time spent invoicing, storing, and retrieving billing information.
- Immediate historical repair bill access for FRA or AAR auditor review.
- Elimination of redundant data entry, excess paper flow, and manual processing of forms.

Management

- Improved resource allocation through fast and accurate information.
- Reduction in management repair bill review and need to correct billing information.
- Automated quality processing.

Data Accuracy and Availability

- Correct and complete repair records.
- Data integrity across the enterprise.
- Elimination of human error associated with manual processing of bills.
- Improved billing accuracy.
- Enhanced reporting capability including real time access to data.
- Automated storage and distribution.

Budget Control

- Increased revenue by increase in identifying associated repairs.
- Shortened billing cycle.
- Increased accuracy of billing statements sent to customers. Target 0% of bills returned in error.
- Increased flexibility in billing repairs to varying responsible parties.
- Elimination of fines due to not complying with the AAR and FRA guidelines.
- Elimination of legacy systems and IS support.

Fleet Management

- Identification of repeat failures.
- Improved car repair turn around time tracking.
- Improved car repair capacity
- Elimination of misapplied maintenance.

To learn more, call 1-877-922-2627 or visit www.wabtecglobalservices.com

©2004 Wabtec Corporation