



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-18

Subject: Aluminum Safety Appliances

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

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

In the past, exception has been taken to various cars equipped with aluminum safety appliances; ladder treads, handholds and sill steps.

Our Office of Research and Development has confirmed that the ladder treads, handholds of circular cross-section , 13/16-inch diameter and sill steps, 5/8-inch thick and 2 inches wide, when constructed of 6061-T6 aluminum alloy exceeds the current Federal Railroad Administration's requirements.

Please be governed accordingly.

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