



## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY TIP**

### **GENERAL SERVICE TANK CARS VS. PRESSURE SERVICE TANK CARS**

There are many different types of tank cars in use on the United States freight rail network. These cars can be classified into two categories: General Service Cars and Pressure Service Cars. It is important to note that while both categories can be used to transport hazardous materials, tank cars can be used to transport other commodities as well. The following descriptions will help you distinguish between the two:

#### **General Service**

- **Not** a “non-pressure” car
- Test pressures up to 100 psi
- Working pressures up to 165 psi
- Can be used to transport hazardous and non-hazardous commodities
- Manway and exposed valves on top of car
- Bottom outlet valve and handle on bottom of car

#### **Pressure Service**

- Test pressures up to 600 psi
- Capacity up to 34,000 gallons
- Used to transport hazardous commodities only
- Single protective housing on top
- No manway
- No bottom outlet valve

#### **Common Tank Car Specification Markings**

- Markings can help distinguish whether a car is general service or pressure service
- Example: **DOT 111 A 100 W 5**

<b><u>Specification Markings</u></b>	<b><u>What Does It Mean?</u></b>	<b><u>Additional Information</u></b>
<b>DOT</b>	U.S. Department of Transportation-approving authority	
<b>111</b>	Tank car class number	111,112, AAR 211: General Service 105 & 117: Pressure Service 113: Cryogenic
<b>A</b>	Delimiter number indicating double shelf coupler	<b>‘J’</b> would indicate jacketed car
<b>100</b>	Tank working pressure expressed in psi	
<b>W</b>	Type of weld	
<b>5</b>	Fittings/outlets	