



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 between 60 and 165 PSIG (Pounds per Square Inch – Gauge)
- 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 between 100 and 600 PSIG
- 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**

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