



KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN – Care of Covered Hopper Gates

The safety of our employees, our customers' shipments and the communities we serve is a top priority. As such, we need to ensure that our railcars are being handled appropriately to minimize both risk to humans – our customers and our employees – but also to minimize the damage to the railcar.

As we prepare for the busy season ahead, we would like to remind you of key safety practices you should take related to unloading and loading hopper rail cars.

COVERED HOPPER CARS:

- Unbalanced loads can result in instabilities when the railcar is in motion; this has the potential to result in a derailment. During the unloading process, it is important to make sure all the product is emptied from the car to decrease the likelihood of such a condition.
- After unloading covered hoppers, an inspection must be made to ensure the gates are securely closed and properly locked. Open gates could result in property damage or derailments.
- After loading covered hoppers, confirm that gates are securely closed and properly locked, as well as that top hatches are closed and shipper seals applied to prevent product spillage.
- When loading covered hoppers, do not leave any product on the top of the car.
- Product spills can potentially result in environmental concerns, or slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Hopper gates are designed to open and close easily. Always use the appropriate tool to open or close gates and never use excessive force.

KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN - Care of Covered Hopper Gates

MANUAL GATE LOCK CARE AND OPERATION

Outlet Gates with manual locks require the lock be turned manually, BEFORE the gate can be opened. Using a powerful tool to open the gate before manually turning the lock will damage the car, and in some cases destroy the lock assembly. This prevents the car from being loaded until it is repaired.

KCS & KCSM Teams are working to apply stickers to cars with manual outlet gate locks.



AUTOMATIC GATE LOCK CARE AND OPERATION

Outlet Gates equipped with automatic lock assemblies do not require manual adjustment to the lock during opening and closing. The gates are designed to be operated with tools to fully open and close.

Automatic Lock Assembly



Shipping safely requires attention to detail throughout the process from loading to unloading. Failure to follow these safety practices could result in increased risk of employee injuries, potential delays, lack of car availability when damages occur and expensive repair costs.

Should damage occur during the loading or unloading process, please contact [KCSR Customer Solutions](#) in the U.S. or [KCSM Customer Solutions](#) in Mexico so that our mechanical department can make the necessary repairs as soon as possible. Thank you for your partnership.