

CASE STUDY

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20-Axle Shiftable Depressed Deck Flatcar

Company Profile

BNSF Logistics is a technology and people-driven third-party logistics company with a diverse Engineering Services Team that offers mechanical and civil design solutions for rail including railcar design, dimensional shipments, civil site plans, and inspection services.

Business Challenge

In a market where commodities progressively increase in size and weight, available shipping methods have grown more limited. BNSF Logistics added a 20-axle shiftable depressed deck railcar, TEXX900, to its specialized fleet to offer customers a unique option for shipping oversized commodities. The car required repairs and modifications before it could be made available to customers.

Solution

To prepare TEXX900 for use, BNSF Logistics' engineers produced engineering drawings to direct the repair and modification work that would improve the overall operation of the railcar. Drawing from extensive previous experience with shiftable railcar modifications, the engineers improved railcar operation by modifying the railcar's shifting capabilities, installing an aerial lighting system, and upgrading the observation deck.

Process/Procedure

BNSF Logistics' engineers revised the hydraulics and overall railcar operation. BNSF Logistics shiftable railcar operators collaborated with local manufacturing shops to ensure successful project completion. Key engineering deliverables included:

- Railcar inspection to identify necessary repairs
- Collaboration with shiftable railcar operators to identify modification opportunities
- Aerial lighting system design
- TEXX900 railcar operating and maintenance manual
- Repair optimization through local manufacturing partnerships

Results

- Provides viable shipping options for heavy dimensional loads
- Solidifies BNSF Logistics as a premier provider for special train shipments
- Ensures customer commodities arrive safely to their destination

