

CASE STUDY

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Railcar Pipe Transport

Company Profile

A U.S. logistics company that services the energy sector by providing rail logistics, pipe logistics, transport, storage and staging.

Business Challenge

The main challenge for this project was to create a process that would integrate the loading of pipe and the securement of pipe to the railcar by BNSFL. The pipe was being stored in a field and were of varying diameters, coatings, weights and lengths. The pipe was delivered to the loading site by truck with random pipes on each truck and required different securement layouts per AAR Open Top Loading Rules (OTLR). The secondary challenge was the limited time frame due to weather.

Solution

BNSF Logistics' engineers worked with BNSF Railway to determine the correct Figure Load layouts to use in laying out the cars. Engineering calculated the weights of pipe to maximize the number of pipe that could be loaded on each car and offered alternative layouts for the odd number of lengths and weight of pipes at the end of the load out. Engineering worked to provide all possible load figures for the field, to meet AAR Open Top Loading Rules (OTLR) standards.

Process/Procedure

Evaluation of the challenges, Engineering implemented the following:

- Created color coded drawings for the loading of pipe, per acceptable AAR Open Top Loading Rules (OTLR) and provided drawings to all field crew supervisors.
- Made a field site visit to advise on best loading procedures and to adapt to issues presented by the field crew.
- Created and implemented a railcar pre-inspection checklist.
- Created and implemented a railcar securement checklist.
- Collaborated with our safety team and with the leadership to recognize and address working safely and efficiently to minimize injuries and delays.
- Communicated with the securement field supervisors to address and reevaluate the procedures based on their first hand accounts.
- Collaborated with BNSF Railway to verify our procedure, securement, and final inspections.

Benefits Achieved

- Successfully increased the number of loads per day from 6 cars to 10 cars per week.
- Developed a valuable working relationship with customer and BNSF Railway.
- Opened a new revenue source opportunity for the company.

