

Retroreflective Sheeting Pattern for Typical 60 Foot Freight Car

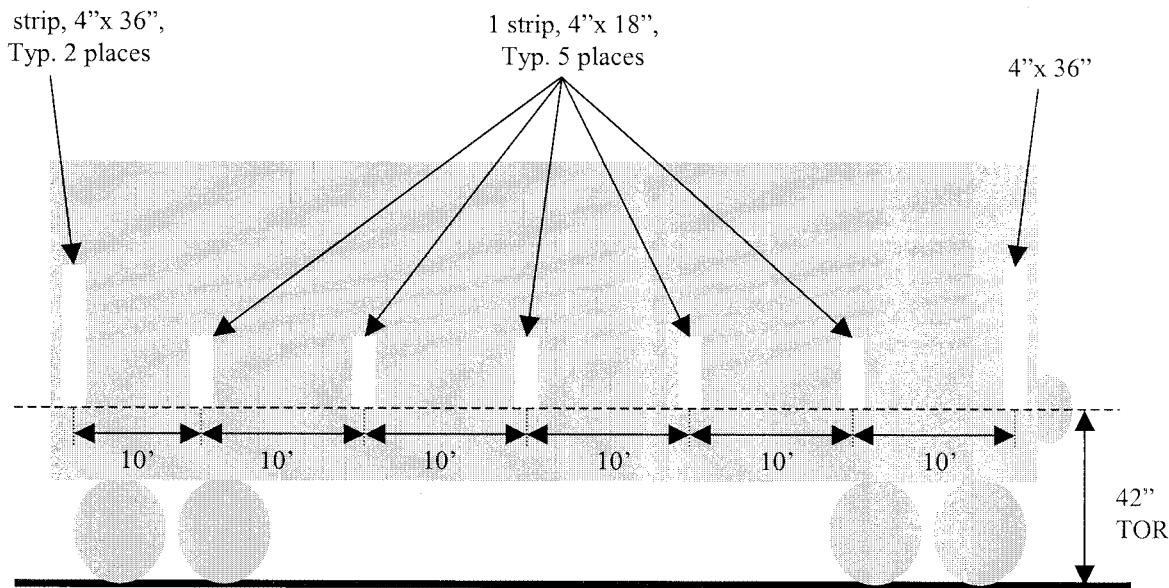


Figure 1

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Although paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) follow this same basic pattern, FRA has attempted to account for the configurational differences between various types of freight cars. Paragraph (a)(2) addresses tank cars specifically, while paragraph (a)(3) addresses flat cars. Paragraph (a)(2) proposes to require that on tank cars, retroreflective sheeting be applied vertically along the car sides and centered on the horizontal centerline of the tank, or as near as practicable. See Figure 2. If it is not practicable to safely apply the sheeting

centered on the horizontal centerline of the tank, the sheeting may be applied vertically with its top edge no lower than 70" above the top of the rail. See Figure 2(a). Similar to the pattern proposed in paragraph (a)(1), paragraph (a)(2) requires a minimum of one 4x36 inch (one square foot) strip of retroreflective material or two 4x18 inch strips, directly above each other, be applied vertically as close to each end of the tank as practicable and that a minimum of one 4x18 inch strip be applied vertically at intervals of no more than every 10 feet between each

end of the tank. The intent of this configuration is that the retroreflective sheeting will be centered, as practicable, on the outermost curved area of the tank, thereby reflecting the most light. FRA recognizes that the material applied underneath the centerline of the tank may reflect a certain amount of light downward and not directly back to the motorist and that illumination from a vehicle's headlights may not even reach some of the material applied above the centerline.

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