

 **RAILINC** | Loading Authority FAQs**What is Loading Authority (OT-57) and why do I have to use the application?**

Loading Authority (OT-57) is a private car registration system, which is governed by [Circular OT-57](#). The Circular requires that controlling entities of private equipment register their contact and storage information within the Loading Authority (OT-57) system. This system provides railroads with the necessary and valid contact information needed for capacity planning.

**Who is responsible for registering equipment within the Loading Authority application?**

This is outlined by [Circular OT-57](#), which states that the controlling entity is responsible for providing Loading Authority OT-57 registration information.

**What SSO permissions are needed or allowed in Loading Authority (OT-57)?**

The *Fleet Manager* role is for users who will be registering private equipment within the Loading Authority system. Fleet managers are equipment owners, lessees, shippers, or agents. Fleet manager marks are always either private marks (ending in X, for example: GATX, UTCX, etc.) or company IDs (created by Railinc for organizations that do not qualify for a private mark).

The *Railroad User* role is provided to only railroads. This access allows railroads to query private car information within the system. Railroads will be provided with equipment information only if the car is in their possession. Railroads will be provided with controlling entity contact information and storage location information.

The *Equipment Owner* role is granted to equipment owners only and is not granted to users with Railroad permissions. This permission allows the equipment owner to remove their equipment from Loading Authority fleets.

**OT-5 required applications to be sent to each railroad individually. Do fleets have to be created for each railroad?**

No, once equipment is successfully registered, the registration applies to all railroads.

**In OT-5, a STCC (Standard Transportation Commodity Code) was needed. Is this required in OT-57?**

No, STCC information is not needed in the OT-57 system.

**Who qualifies as a Shipper Owner?**

For the purpose of this Circular, the Shipper Owner is any person or entity that is both: (i) an owner, and (ii) a shipper of said private railcars. A Shipper Owner does not include a railcar lessor.

**Who is the controlling entity?**

The controlling entity is the party responsible for the routing of equipment. For purposes of Loading Authority, the controlling entity is someone who the railroad should contact if disposition information is needed.

### **Is there a fee or contract for the use of Loading Authority (OT-57)?**

No, but a company ID is required if a user does not have a mark. Refer to the "[Getting Started with Railinc](#)" page or contact the Railinc Customer Success Center for more information.

### **Why is a company ID required? Who handles processing the forms and how should cases be assigned?**

Company IDs are used as identifiers across all Railinc applications. It is important to note that obtaining a company ID is separate from the use of the Loading Authority (OT-57) application and is required in a broader sense to take part in many railroad industry processes. A company ID is a non-equipment owner identifier and is used as an ID for all electronic interfaces between railroads, their customers, and Railinc systems and files.

### **When I create a fleet, the 'Save' button is not enabled on the final page. How do I save my fleet?**

The only time the 'Save' button is enabled on the Edit Fleet page is when changes are made to the fleet name, fleet description, controlling entity, or storage location information. Equipment changes are automatically saved.

### **Can a car be on more than one fleet at a time?**

A car can only be on one fleet in the Loading Authority (OT-57) system at a time. The requirement means that as cars change service, the Loading Authority (OT-57) fleet needs to be updated.

### **When a car is restenciled, what happens to the Loading Authority (OT-57) fleet?**

When a car is restenciled in Umler®, the original car mark and number is automatically removed from any Loading Authority (OT-57) fleets it is on. The new car mark and number, however, does not automatically get added. It is up to the fleet manager to add the new car mark and number to the Loading Authority (OT-57) system.

### **How do transfer requests work?**

If you want to add a car to your fleet that is currently on another fleet, you can initiate a transfer request from the Manage Fleet page. There are several different statuses for transfer requests. A *Pending* transfer request has not been acted on by either party. A *Verified* transfer request has been verified by the party who initiated the transfer request to confirm the request is still valid. An *Acknowledged* transfer request has been acknowledged by the party currently in possession of the car due to delay in approval. For more information about transfer requests, refer to the [OT-57 User Guide](#).

### **Is there visibility on the Loading Authority Fleet Status in the Umler application?**

Yes, Loading Authority (OT-57) has integration with Umler and provides visibility on whether a private car is registered on a fleet. Element ID B597 in the Car Management section displays a "Y" if a car is active on a fleet or an "S" if a car is on a suspended fleet. It is blank if a car is not active on a fleet.

### **What if I have questions about Loading Authority (OT-57)?**

Railinc's Customer Success Team is available to answer your questions. For more information about Loading Authority (OT-57), contact the Railinc Customer Success Center toll free at (877) 724-5462 or via email at [csc@railinc.com](mailto:csc@railinc.com).