

STUDENT HANDOUT 3

Railroad Terminology

Flat car A railroad freight car without sides or a roof.

Low-bottom flat car A railroad freight car that is depressed in the center to permit overhead clearance for bridges and tunnels.

Trailer A large transport vehicle designed to be hauled by a truck or tractor.

Piggy-back method of transportation in which truck trailers are carried on train cars specially designed for truck trailers or containers.

Double-stacked Two containers (often truck trailers) loaded one on top of the other for transport on low bottom railroad flatcars. This system may also be referred to as multi-deck operations for transporting containers of various types.

Inter-modal A transport system that enables the direct transfers of containers between different transportation types. Freight is usually contained in a box designed to be carried by different modes of transport that permits same box or container to be transferred between road, rail, sea, inland waterways, and air transport without transferring the contents to another container.

Tank car A railcar consisting of a container capable of transporting liquids or compressed gas.

Van A railroad car used for carrying baggage or freight