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STUCKI EXCHANGE

Reliability, Compliance, and Performance



INVENTORY MANAGEMENT BOOSTS FLEET OPERATIONS

The perfect balance between maintaining a supply of readily available spare parts and avoiding the expense of storing too many of those parts for too long.

03

OUTLET GATE MAXIMIZES HOPPER CAR OPERATIONS

Stucki revolutionized the category in 2024 by introducing the GATOR® outlet gate

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THE STUCKI EXCHANGE

WELCOME, to our new digital platform designed with you in mind.

In every issue, we'll share insights, updates and practical resources to help you navigate the challenges, opportunities and priorities shaping today's rail industry.

Stucki Exchange is designed to be a trusted resource. In each issue, we'll explore topics relevant to our readers, share lessons learned from our

experience on the front lines and highlight approaches that can help you address real-world business and operational challenges.

At A. Stucki Company, we believe the strongest partnerships are built on understanding, collaboration and a shared commitment to solving problems. We hope the insights shared here will spark new ideas and create lasting value for your business.

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Fewer rush orders, fewer line stops and fewer surprises.

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[Inventory Management](#)



Supply Chain Insights

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT BOOSTS FLEET OPERATIONS

Railcar owners and fleet operators know the critical importance of effective inventory management.

There's a delicate balance between maintaining a supply of readily available spare parts and avoiding the expense of storing too many of those parts for too long.

Through Stucki's inventory management and consignment program, customers rely on our deep product knowledge and a fast, responsive supply chain to achieve that balance.

We begin by auditing our customers' usage, seasonality and other key factors to determine accurate service levels. From there, we'll digitally track stocking levels to match real-time consumption.

The result? Fewer rush orders, fewer line stops and fewer surprises.

We stock everything from tank and hopper car components and running gear to gasket fittings, tank consumables and other service items – all tailored to your fleet mix and shop scope.

With centralized distribution centers in Chicago and Houston, Stucki can quickly deliver critical components throughout North America, helping customers minimize downtime, reduce the need for costly expedited shipments and maintain fleet reliability without investing in excess inventory.

Contact our Customer Support team to learn more about our inventory management and consignment program.

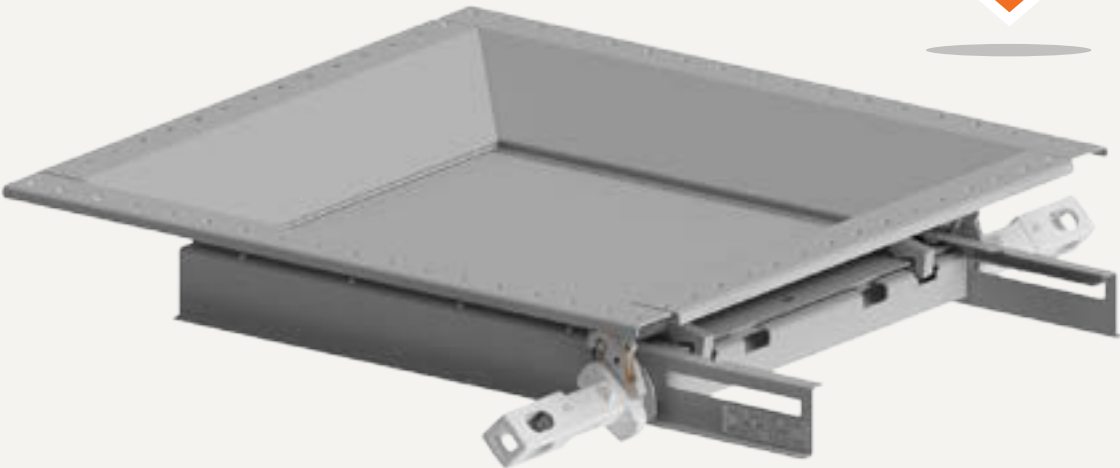
Engineered Solutions Boost Hopper Car Gate Operations

Hopper car outlet gates play a vital role in bulk-material rail operations by reducing loading and unloading delays and providing controlled, reliable flow of grain, minerals and other commodities.

Reliable gate operation minimizes the need for manual intervention, troubleshooting or makeshift repairs that can disrupt switching, loading and unloading schedules.

Stucki revolutionized the category in 2024 by introducing the GATOR® hopper car outlet gate, a breakthrough product that sharply improves the unloading of grain, fertilizer, corn and other dry and light commodities.

Explore
The Full
Suite!



GATOR® Outlet Gate

A gate that seals properly reduces material leakage during transit and unloading, limiting product loss, contamination and cleanup requirements. The GATOR features polyethylene door seals for ease of operation.

Properly maintained gates can deliver important maintenance benefits as well. Durable components and accurate fit reduce excessive wear, leakage and damage to gate mechanisms, helping operators avoid unplanned repairs and premature component replacement.

That's where the GATOR excels. It's lighter than other models on the market without sacrificing strength, and it offers several customized options, including stainless steel hardware, food-grade quality and a heavy duty bolt-on frame.

Ultimately, a dependable hopper car outlet gate is more than a discharge component. It is an important part of the railcar's overall operating system that helps reduce dwell time, improve unloading efficiency, control maintenance costs and protect valuable cargo.

The GATOR is available in 30" x 30" and 42" x 42" models. To accommodate the new generation of high-capacity cars, Stucki recently introduced a low-profile, 30" x 30" version of the GATOR.



To learn more, contact Stucki's sales team at sales@stucki.com.

COMPLIANCE WATCH

RAILCAR INSPECTIONS

PREVENT OVERSIGHTS, REDUCE RISK

Knowing the condition of a railcar equips an owner or operator with essential information that can be used for purchasing, repair, contract negotiations and future maintenance budgeting.

That's why third party car inspections are critical and beneficial. They supply valuable maintenance information about the fleet or individual groupings of cars and ensure compliance with accident and defect inspections and federal reporting mandates.

A third-party inspection can help determine and protect the customer's liability and/or assets, especially when a joint inspection certificate is required to determine liability and repair responsibility. It can also assist with accident and defect (OTMA) inspections, where root cause and other factors must be thoroughly investigated and reported.

Inspections at repair providers, including new car manufacturing facilities, work much like an audit. The inspector is not only guaranteeing a quality product at the time of inspection, but with the right attitude and input, they are able to assist the facility in achieving quality improvements for future car shopping and fleet maintenance.

Through our Regulatory Compliance Group, Stucki provides inspection consulting and support to help rail shippers, car owners and service

facilities meet federal inspection requirements and AAR interchange standards.

Our team also supports critical documentation and communication needs. The goal is for organizations to stay inspection-ready, gain a better understanding of the condition of their fleet and have greater control of their asset management.

Want to know more? Click below to learn more about Stucki's Regulatory Compliance Group.



[Regulatory Compliance Group](#)

RESILIENT SIDE BEARING BLOCKS PREVENT CATASTROPHIC FAILURES

RELIABILITY CORNER

Resilient side bearing blocks play a vital role in keeping freight rail equipment safe and reliable. Located beneath the car body floor on the bogie frame, they control the snaking of the bogie at high speeds and manage the roll of the car body when navigating curves.

Because these components endure demanding operating conditions, and maintaining the correct vertical preload is essential for freight car stability, timely inspection and replacement is essential to prevent equipment issues or possible failure.

Below is a breakdown of wear signs, inspection rules and maintenance priorities for resilient side bearing blocks.

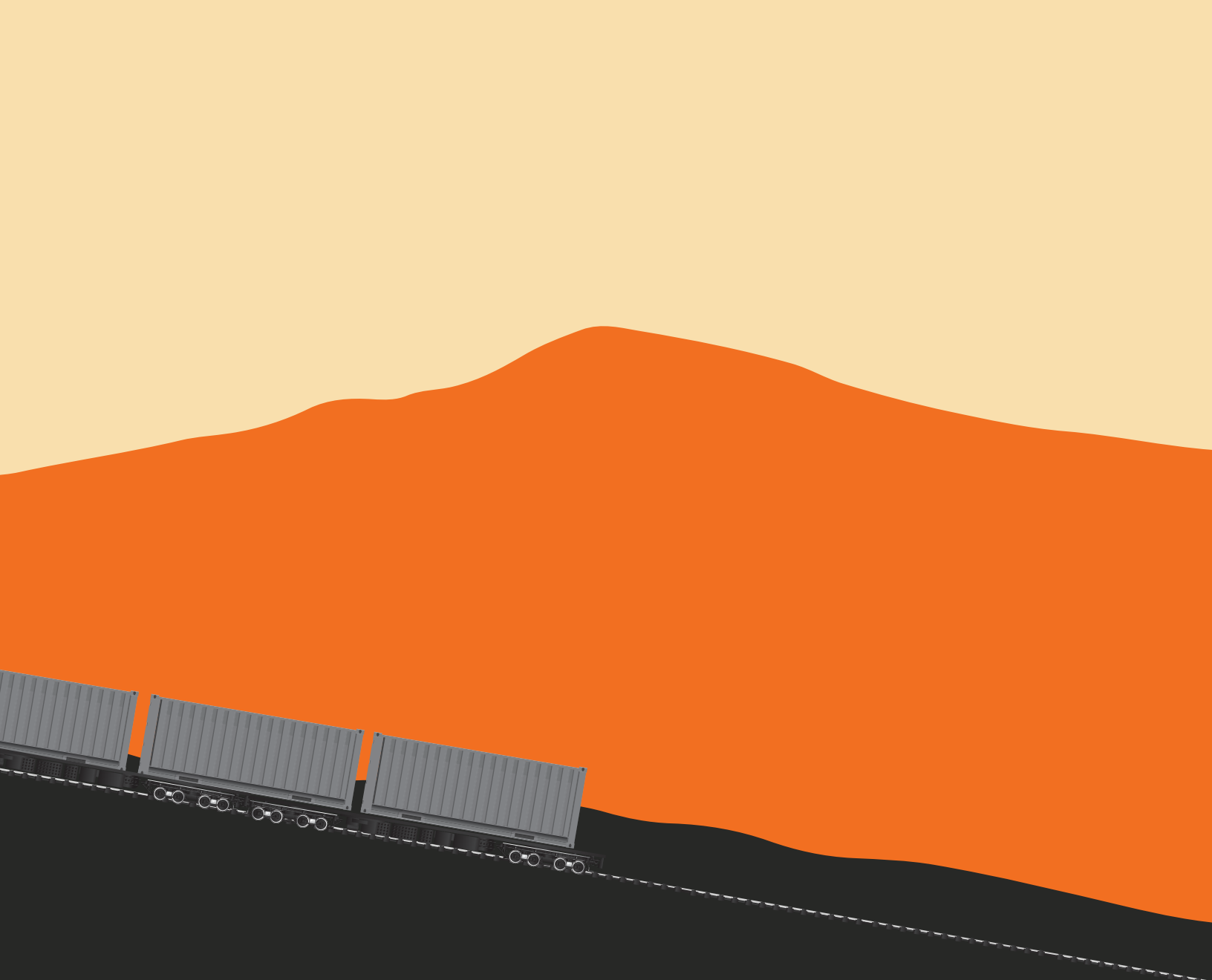
Common signs of wear include visual sag, when the elastomeric material permanently compresses and no longer rebounds; extreme wear or deep cracks in the rubber body from slippage, compression and environmental exposure; and pieces flaking or breaking off around the edges.

To ensure the blocks maintain their critical vertical preload, inspections should be conducted during routine freight car maintenance. This includes visual walkarounds for degradation or gaps between the wear plate and side bearing, plus physical height checks using a caliper during scheduled shop visits.

Delaying replacement can lead to severe tracking and safety issues such as snaking, accelerated wear on surrounding parts like steel housing, center bowl and car body wear plates, and derailment risk, especially around sharp curves or on crossing track switches.

No preload equals no control. A permanently compressed block cannot push upward against the car body. Worn blocks should be replaced immediately to prevent high-speed truck hunting and protect wheels from premature wear.

[Read Technical Service Bulletin](#)



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