

How are freight cars classified by IR?

- The following codes are used now for classifying freight cars. The classification scheme is not entirely systematic. Older wagons especially have codes that are not easily explained in this way. But in general an optional gauge code is followed by a type code which is followed by an indication of the coupler and whether the wagon is air-braked.
- **Gauge code**
 - M : (prefix) MG
 - N : (prefix) NG

Wagon type code

- B : (prefix) Bogie wagon (sometimes omitted)
- BV : Brake van
- V : Brake/parcel van (see above for brake van codes)
- O : Open wagon (gondola)
- C : Covered wagon (boxcar)
- F : Flat car
- FK : Flat car for container transport
- FU : Well wagon
- LA : Low flat car with standard buffer height
- LB : Low flat car with low buffer height
- LAB : Low flat car, one end with low buffers, the other with high buffers
- R : Rail-carrying wagon

Wagon type code

- T : Tanker (additional letters indicate material carried)
- U : Well wagon
- W : Well wagon
- K : Open wagon: ballast / material / refuse transport (older wagons)
- C : Centre discharge
- S : Side discharge
- R : Rapid (forced) discharge, bottom discharge
- X : Both centre and side discharge
- X : (also?) High sided
- Y : Low (medium?) side walls
- L : Low sided
- H : Heavy load

The 'B' indication is sometimes omitted as all new wagons are bogie stock.

- Following the type code in the classification code a letter may denote the type of coupler, nowadays optional, as all new freight cars are fitted with centre buffer couplers (CBC). An 'N' suffix is for 'pneumatic', or air-braked wagons. Most newer stock that is air-braked also has CBC couplers, so the 'C' is usually dropped. E.g., BOXN for air-braked BOX wagons, not BOXCN. Almost all the older stock is vacuum-braked.

The 'B' indication is sometimes omitted as all new wagons are bogie stock.

- Coupler, brake, and other suffixes:
 - C = Centre buffer coupler (CBC)
 - R = Screw coupling only
 - T = Transition coupler (CBC with additional side buffers and screw coupling)
 - N = Air-braked
 - M = (suffix) Military