

Freight Cars Journal N° 80



High-Cube Plastics Cars

September 1999

Freight Cars Journal

Number 80 September 1999

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Front cover

PSPX 9230, part of a series of fifty 6245 cubic-foot capacity cars built by National Steel Car in 1998.

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Editors: D G Casdorff, E A Neubauer, and J A Kinkaid. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information and data forming the content of this publication, the authors, editors, and publishers cannot be held responsible for errors or omission, or for any loss or damage occasioned by any person using the information contained in this publication. Subscription rates are \$25.75 for 4 issues delivered to U.S. addresses (for other rates please write). Printed on archival quality acid-free paper. Typeset in 12/14.4 pt. Times New Roman. All photos are by David G. Casdorff unless otherwise noted.

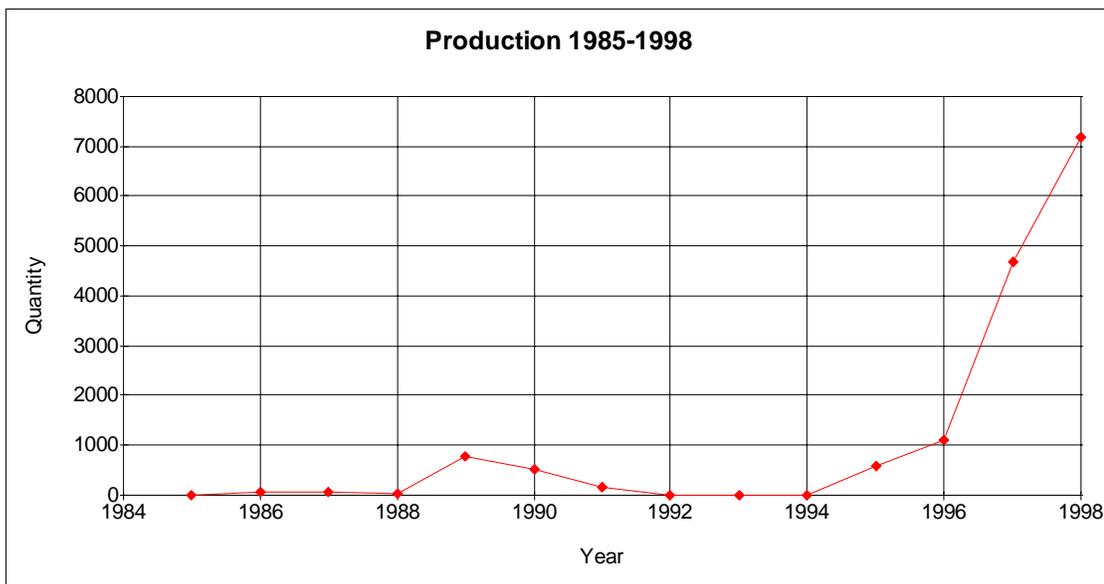
HIGH-CUBE PLASTICS CARS

David G Casdorff Reviews Covered Hopper Cars with Pneumatic Outlets Over 6000 Cubic-Foot Capacity.

Plastics cars have taken some dramatic leaps during the past several years. During the Seventies and Eighties, the rulers of plastics cars were ACF and Pullman-Standard. ACF offered a number of different designs for plastics including the curved-sided 5250, 5701, and 5800 designs. Pullman-Standard offered their straight-sided 5820. During the Eighties, production of plastics cars nearly standardized of the 5800 cubic-foot size (or close to it). It was during the mid-Eighties that Trinity Industries introduced their entry into a whole new

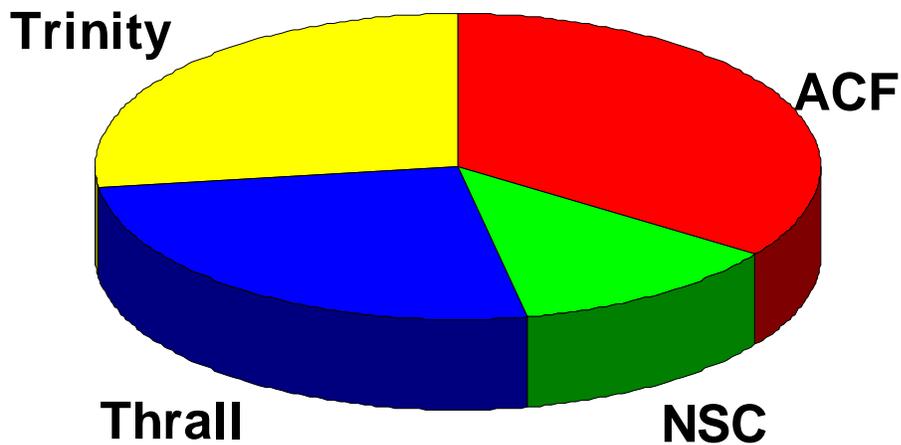
sub-type of plastics cars - the high cubes. Trinity's entry was a straight-sided design that evolved from the Pullman-Standard 5820. Relatively few of the new sized car were built until the Nineties when other designs were introduced. A small surge occurred in 1989 and then fell again until 1995. The pace picked up in 1997-1998 and has been going strong ever since. This article presents a roster of known pneumatic-outleted covered hoppers greater than 6,000 cubic-foot capacity.

Below, a production chart shows how the high-cube plastics cars have gone through a series of jumps and flat bottoms before surging during the 1994-1998 period.



High-Cube Plastics Car Designs			
<i>Builder</i>	<i>Cubic Foot</i>	<i>Production Years</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
ACF	6111	1990-1991	210
ACF	6200	1990-Present	937
ACF	6224	1996-Present	6242
NSC	6245	1997-Present	2460
Thrall	6100	1989-1990	651
Thrall	6270	1995-Present	4673
Trinity	6011	1997-Present	595
Trinity	6150	1986-1989	549
Trinity	6151	1990	1
Trinity	6200	1986?	1
Trinity	6221	1997-Present	4401

The pie chart below breaks down high-cube plastics cars quantities by builder. ACF has the clear lead, with Trinity a close second.



ROSTER OF HIGH-CUBE PLASTICS CARS - August 1999

ACFX 462045-462050. 6 cars. Built 2/96 ACF (Milton PA). 6200 cubic-foot. ACF 5235B outlets. Lined with Sigma 5476 at RESC DUBS in 3/96.

ALAX 61000-61400. 401 cars. Built 8=10/89 Thrall (Job 582). 6100 cubic-foot. Edsco III outlets. Lined with Ameron 320 at Lone Star and ETC in 10/89=1/90.

ALAX 61401-61550. 150 cars. Built 7=9/90 Thrall (Job 634). 6100 cubic-foot.

ALAX 62001-62100. 100 cars. Built 10=12/90 ACF (Huntington WV). 6200 cubic-foot. ACF 5235 outlets. Lined with Ameron 320 HS at TRN 117 in 11=12/90.

ALAX 62201-62410. 160 cars. Built 2=4/91 ACF (Huntington WV). 6111 cubic-foot. ACF 5235 outlets. Lined with Sigma 7456 at ETC in 4/91.

AMCX 104000-104124. 125 cars. Built 9/89 PSM (Bessemer AL - Lot 2082). 6150 cubic-foot.

AMCX 104125-104185. 45 cars from TILX 6251-6295 (45 cars). Suspect five cars are from TILX 6201-6205.

AMCX 104186-104272. 87 cars. Built ca 11=12/96 by ACF. 6200

OCPX 70411, an example of an early high-cube plastics car. This one is a Trinity 6150 that was built in 1989. This design evolved from the more common 1970's Pullman-Standard 5850.





cubic-foot.

DCLX 8071 is a NSC-built 6245 cubic-foot capacity design.

AMCX 104273-104422. 150 cars. Built 3/98 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot.

AMCX 104423-104472. 50 cars. Built 5=6/98 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot.

AMCX 104473-104711. 239 cars. Built 1/99 ACF (Milton PA). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 164 at Milton in 1/99.

CCBX 58595-59000. 406 cars. Built 6=9/95 Thrall (Job 805). 6270 cubic-foot. Lined with Ameron 320 HSA at UTC 12 and TRN 117 in 7=10/95.

CCBX 59563-59652. 90 cars. Built 1/97 ACF (Milton PA). 6200 cubic-foot. Edsco III E "Vac-u-matic" outlets. Lined with Ameron 320 at Milton in 1/97. Large blue & black "ElastoFlo" logo on sides.

CCBX 71000-71372. 373 cars. Built 5=8/97 Thrall (Job 969). 6270 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at UTC 12 in 6=8/97.

CCBX 71373-71757. 385 cars. Built 2=3/99 Trinity Industries (Beaumont and Saginaw TX). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Ameron 320 HSA at Saginaw in 2=3/99 or Carboline #892GL at Beaumont in 3/99.

CEFX 50041-50299. 258 cars. Built 11=12/97 Trinity Industries

(Beaumont TX). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at Beaumont in 11=12/97.

DCLX 8000-8199. 200 cars. Built 11=12/98 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot. Norson outlets. Lined with Sigma 5476 PC at Hamilton in 11=12/98.

DOWX 66000-66299. 300 cars. Built 10=11/98 ARI (Paragould AR). 6224 cubic-foot.

ECUX 880001-880470. 470 cars. Built 11/96=2/97 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 164 at RESC in 1=3/97.

ECUX 880626-880725. 100 cars. Built 1/98 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot.

ECUX 880726-881375. 650 cars. Built 6=11/98 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 164 at Huntington in 6=11/98.

ECUX 881376-882675. 1,300 cars. Built 1/99 & 5/99 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 164 at Huntington in 1/99 & 5/99. Note: This series may actually emerge broken into a number of smaller series. Additional build dates will be seen.

ECUX 887001-887190. 190 cars. Built 10-11/96 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 121 HS at RESC in 12/96.

ECUX 887179 is an example of ACF's 6224 cubic-foot design.





ECUX 887191-887480. 290 cars. Built 7=10/97 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 164 at Huntington in 7=10/97.

MLLX 11038 is an example of Thrall's entry into the high-cube plastics car market

ECUX 887481-887680. 200 cars. Built 3/99 ACF (Huntington WV). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 164 at Huntington in 3/99.

ELTX 6000-6307. 308 cars. Built 2=4/99 ARI (Paragould AR). 6224 cubic-foot. ACF 5236 outlets. Lined with Sigma 5476 at Goodrich in 2=4/99.

EQUX 1125-1274. 150 cars. Built 1=3/98 Trinity Industries (Tulsa OK - File 2525A). 6011 cubic-foot.

EQUX 620001-620765. 765 cars. Built 5/99 ARI (Paragould AR). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 120 at Goodrich TX in 5/99.

EQUX 630001-631200. 1200 cars. Built 1=4/99 Thrall (Job 522). 6270 cubic-foot. Lined with PL 7128 at UTC 12 in 2=5/99.

FINX 10001-10450. 450 cars. Built 6=11/98 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at Beaumont in 6=11/98.

FINX 10451-10850. 400 cars. Built 8=10/98 Trinity Industries (Saginaw TX - File 2565A). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at Saginaw in 8=10/98.

FINX 50001-50350. 350 cars. Built 6=7/98 Thrall (Job 441). 6270

cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at UTC 12 in 7=8/98.

FLOX 62100-62224. 125 cars. Built 6=7/97 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 PC at Hamilton in 6=7/97.

FPAX 970001-970390. 390 cars. Built 4=7/97 Trinity Industries (Beaumont and Saginaw TX - Files 2502 and 2502S respectively). 6221 cubic-foot. Trinity SA-3AQ Swivel Gate outlets. Lined with Ameron 321 at Saginaw and Carboline 892 at Beaumont in TX 4=7/97.

FPAX 980001-980560. 560 cars. Built 2=7/98 Trinity Industries (Saginaw TX - File 2574). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Carboline 892-5141 at Saginaw TX in 2=7/98.

GPLX 76235-76434. 200 cars. Built 1=5/98 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at Beaumont TX 1=5/98.

MBLX 53170-53216. 47 cars Built 3/97 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX - File 2475). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Ameron 320 at Beaumont in 3/97.

MBLX 53217-53459. 243 cars. Built 5=6/97 ARI (Paragould AR). 6224 cubic-foot. ACF 5236B outlets. Lined with Ameron 320 HSA at ETC in 6=7/97.

MBLX 53460-53509. 50 cars. Built 1/97 Thrall. 6270 cubic-foot.

FINX 50135. Thrall 6270 cubic-foot capacity car. Seen here in Loma Linda CA.



Edsco III outlets. Lined with Ameron 320 at UTC 12 in 1/97.

MBLX 53510-53766. 157 cars. Built 5=9/97 ARI (Paragould AR). 6224 cubic-foot. ACF 5236B outlets. Lined with Devoe 250 at Goodrich in 5=9/97 or Ameron 320 at ETC in 8/97.

MBLX 53767-53804. 38 cars. Built Trinity Industries. 6221 cubic-foot.

MBLX 53805-54129. 325 cars. Built 10/98 ACF (Milton PA). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with Ameron 320 HSA at ETC in 11/98.

MLLX 10000-10611. 612 cars. Built 4=6/98 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 PC at Hamilton 4=6/98.

MLLX 10612-11683. 1072 cars. Built 8=10/98 Thrall (Job 447). 6270 cubic-foot. Edsco III C outlets. Lined with Sigma 5476 at UTC 12 in 9=11/98. Note the last 422 cars have not as of the time of this writing been seen and may not have been built.

MLLX 97000-97499. 500 cars. Built 2=6/97 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot. Norson outlets. Lined with Sigma 5476 PC at Hamilton 2=6/97.

MLLX 97500-97594. 95 cars. Built 2/97 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at Beaumont in 2/97.

MLLX 97595-97694. 100 cars. Built 4/97 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX - File 2500). 6221 cubic-foot. Norson outlets.

MLLX 97700-97899. 200 cars. Built 4/97 Thrall (Job 985). 6270 cubic-foot. Edsco III C outlets.

MLLX 97900-98269. 370 cars. Built 9/97 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot.

MLLX 98300-98699. 400 cars. Built 8=11/97 Thrall (Job 979). 6270 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at UTC 12 in 9=12/97.

NAHX 580000-580099. 100 cars. Built 9=10/97 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot.

NAHX 620000-620353. 354 cars. Built 11/98 Trinity Industries

(Saginaw TX - File 2576). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Optiflex #PC 520 at Saginaw in 11/98.

NAHX 620354-620463. 110 cars. Built 12/98 ARI (Paragould AR). 6224 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 120 at Goodrich TX in 12/98.

NCIX 1909-2111. 203 cars. Built 12/97 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot.

NCLX 001-300. 300 cars. Built 3=5/98 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot. Norson outlets.

NRLX 62000-62249. 250 cars. Built 1=2/99 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB #120 at Beaumont in 1=2/99.

OCPX 70201-70250. 50 cars. Built 11=12/87 PSM (Bessemer AL - Lot 2030).

OCPX 70251-70305. 55 cars acquired from the TILX 6206-series (and possibly another series) circa 1988. Trinity (PSM) 6150 cubic-foot.

OCPX 70401-70642. 242 cars. Built 5=6/89 PSM (Bessemer AL - Lot 2076). YSD outlets. 6150 cubic-foot. Lined with sigma 7456-700 at PSMB in 5=6/89.

TIMX 60078. A very distinctive design using an aluminum body. Built by Trinity Industries.



OCPX 70701-70834. 134 cars. Built 8=9/90 ACF (Huntington WV). ACF 5235 outlets. Lined with Sigma 7456 at ETC in 8=10/90.

OCPX 70901-70944. 44 cars. Built 10=11/95 Thrall (Job 886). 6270 cubic-foot. Edsco outlets. Lined with Sigma 5476 at ETC in 11/95.

OCPX 71301-71600. 300 cars. Built 7=10/97 ACF (Milton PA). 6200 cubic-foot. ACF 5236 outlets. Lined with Sigma 7456 at ETC Nash TX in 8=11/97.

OCPX 71601-71615. 15 cars. Built 2/98 ACF. 6200 cubic-foot.

OCPX 71616-71820. 205 cars. Built 11/98 ACF (Huntington WV). 6200 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 7456 at ETC Nash TX in 12/98.

PSPX 1151-1192. 42 cars. Built 8/97 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at Beaumont in 8/97.

PSPX 1193-1799. 607 cars. Built 2=6/99 Trinity Industries (Saginaw TX - File 2657). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with Hempel #35480 at Saginaw in 2=6/99.



PSPX 3001-3205. 205 cars. Built 11=12/96. Thrall (Job 923). 6270 cubic-foot. Edsco outlets. Lined Ameron 321 at PPCO ELK TX or UTC 12 in 12/96=1/97.

PSPX 8102-8221. 120 cars. Built 10/96 ACF. 6224 cubic-foot. ACF 5235B outlets. Lined with Ameron 321 HS at PPCO ELK TX 10/96.

PSPX 9201-9250. 50 cars. Built 7=9/98 National Steel Car (Hamilton ON). 6245 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at Hamilton in 7=9/98.

QCCX 1000-1124. 125 cars. Built 5/97 & 10/97 Trinity Industries (Tulsa OK - File 2454). 6011 cubic-foot.

SHPX 462055-462079. 25 cars. Built ACF. 6224 cubic-foot.

SHPX 462086-462335. 250 cars. Built 2/98 ACF (Milton PA). 6224 cubic-foot.

TILX 6200. 1 car. 6200 cubic-foot.

TILX 6201-6205. 5 cars. Built 2/86 & 4/86 PSM (Bessemer AL). 6150 cubic-foot.

TILX 6206-6250. 45 cars. Built 3/86 & 9/86 PSM (Bessemer AL). 6150 cubic-foot.

TILX 6251-6295. 45 cars. Built 3=4/87 PSM (Bessemer AL - Lot 2018). 6150 cubic-foot.

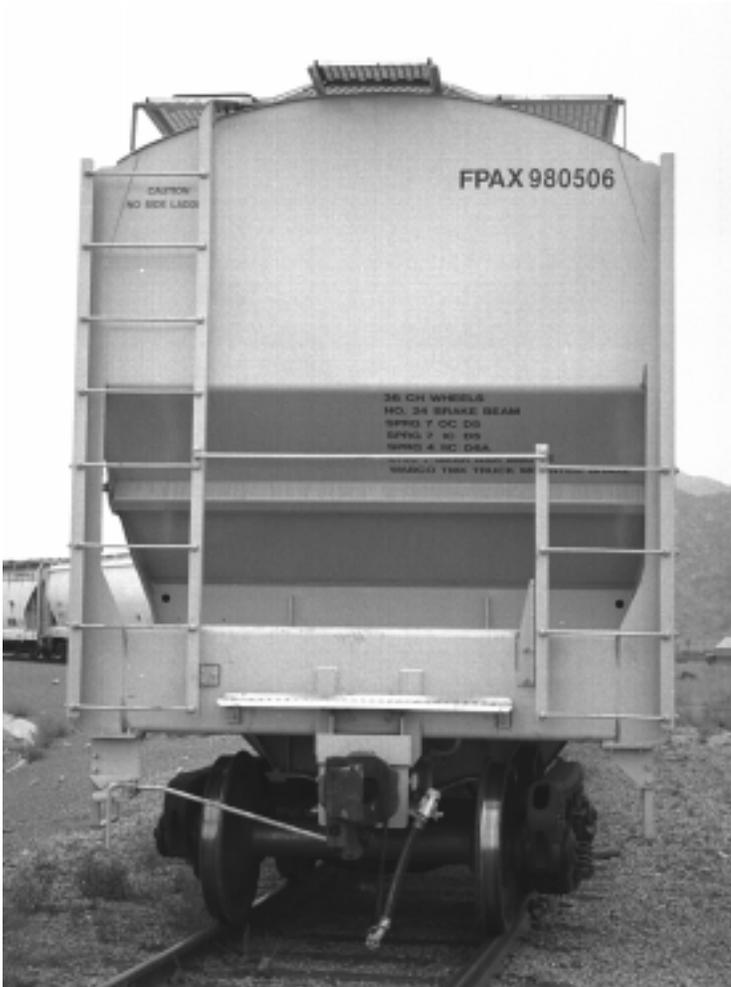
TILX 6296-6300. 5 cars. 6150 cubic-foot.

TILX 6301-6332. 32 cars. Built 5/88 PSM (Bessemer AL). 6150 cubic-foot.

TILX 61500. 1 car. Built 12/90 Trinity Industries (Fort Worth TX). 6151 cubic-foot.

TILX 620000-620049. 50 cars. Built 10=11/97 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX). 6221 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB #164-0310 at Beaumont in 10=11/97.

TILX 620050-620224. 175 cars. Built 2/99 Trinity Industries (Beaumont TX). 6221 cubic-foot.



FPAX 980506. Note some of the end architecture that has followed Trinity's plastics cars since the Pullman-Standard 5820.

TIMX 60000-60019. 20 cars. Built 3/97 Trinity Industries (Tulsa OK). 6011 cubic-foot.

TIMX 60020-60319. 300 cars. Built 5=8/98 & 11=12/98 Trinity Industries (Tulsa OK - File 2611). 6011 cubic-foot.

TIMX 62000-62044. 45 cars. 6221 cubic-foot.

UTCX 49148-49287. 140 cars. Built 10/95 Thrall (Job 877). 6270 cubic-foot.

UTCX 50220-50319. 100 cars. Built 10/96 & 1/97 Thrall (Job 964). 6270 cubic-foot. Lined with Sigma 5476 at ETC in 12/96 or Sigma 7456 at Zwolle Railcar in 2/97.

UTCX 50938-51069. 133 cars. Built 11/97 & 1/98 Thrall (Jobs 426, 440 and 443). 6270 cubic-foot. Lined with RCB 164 at UTC 12 in 2/98 or Sigma 5476 at UTC 12 in 12/97.

UTCX 59134-59233. 100 cars. Built 8=10/90 Thrall (Job 642). 6100 cubic-foot.

Trinity's end sheet architecture certainly looks similar to ACF designs. However, there are differences in the curves and angles.



HIGH-CUBE PLASTICS CAR OPERATORS

<i>Company Name</i>	<i>Applicable Reporting Marks</i>
ACF Industries, Inc	SHPX
Amoco Chemical Company	AMCX
The CIT Group/Captial Finance, Inc	CEFX
Dow Chemical Canada, Inc	DCLX
The Dow Chemical Company	DOWX
Equistar Chemicals, LP	ALAX, EQUX, QCCX
Exxon Chemical Americas	ECUX
Flex Leasing Corporation	FLOX
Formosa Transrail Coporation	FPAX
General American Marks Company	GPLX
General Electric Railcar Services Corporation	ACFX, NAHX
Mobil Oil Corporation	MBLX
Montell USA, Inc	MLLX
NorRail, Inc	NRLX
Nova Chemicals, Inc	NCIX
Nova Chemicals Ltd	NCLX
Occidental Chemical Corporation	OCPX
Phillips Petroleum Company	PSPX
Solvay Polymers, Inc	ELTX
Trinity Industries Leasing Company	TILX, TIMX
Trinity Rail Management, Inc	FINX
Union Carbide Corporation	CCBX
Union Tank Car Company	UTCX