

CODeC

A component of the Railcar Integrated Maintenance Suite (RIMS)

User Guide



Railcar Integrated
Maintenance Suite

DATA COLLECTION • AUTOMATION

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Introduction

The Component Data Collector (CODEC) is a data collection application. It is intended to be used on the shop floor to record the required element data for Component Registration as required by the AAR's Comprehensive Equipment Performance Monitoring (CEPM) program. This program tracks the application of Wheelsets, Side Frames¹, Bolsters 1, and Couplers 1 to the equipment. For more information refer to the CEPM Program Overview at <https://www.railinc.com/rportal/cepm-project-overview>

Once the data has been entered from CODEC it can be viewed, modified, and submitted to Railinc from Car Manager. For more information about Car Manager refer to the Car Manager User Guide or [contact us](#).

¹ Required in 2014

System Requirements

This application has minimum system requirements as described below. These requirements must be met in order for the application to operate as designed.

This application supports the following Microsoft Windows operating systems.

- Windows Vista SP2 (x86 and x64)
- Windows 7 SP1 (x86 and x64)
- Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1 (x64)
- Windows Server 2008 SP2 (x86 and x64)

The application requires the Microsoft .Net Framework 4.5 Full which can be obtained from Microsoft at <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=30653>

The application requires the following hardware at a minimum.

- 2.0 GHz Processor
- 1 GB installed RAM
- 100 MB available disk space
- Ethernet Card

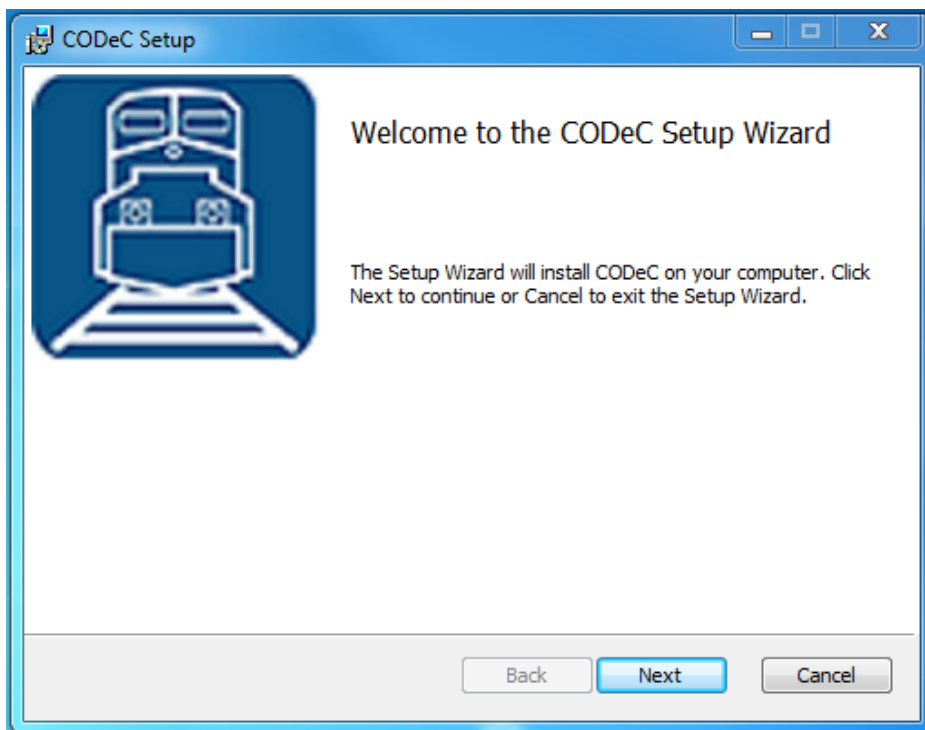
Getting Started

Installing CODEc

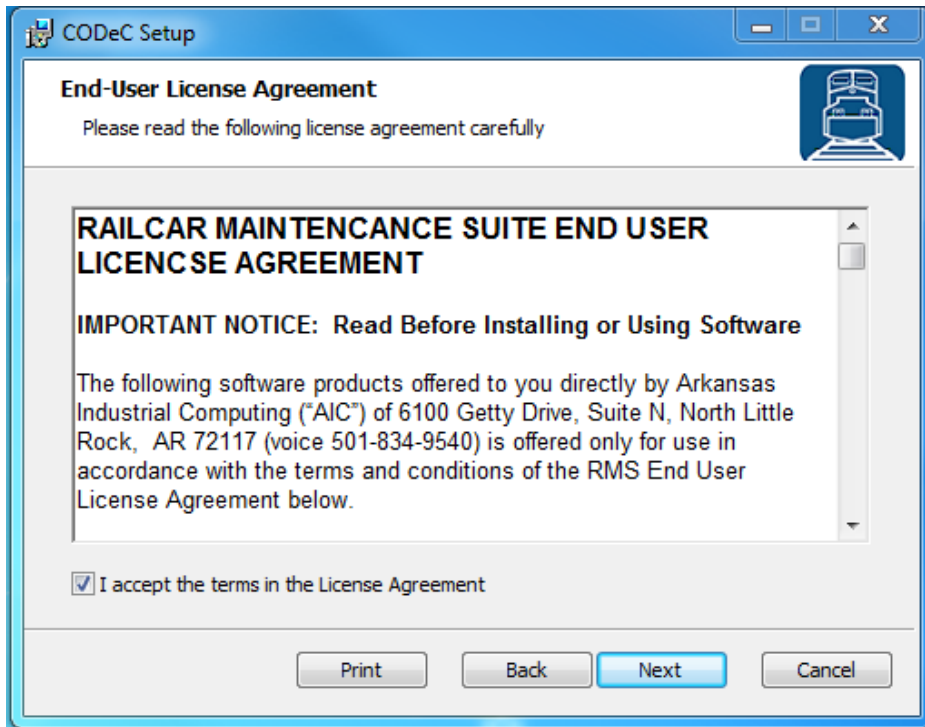
You will need Administrator rights to install CODEc.

Make sure you have the latest version of our CODEc Setup program. [Contact](#) our support team for assistance. To install CODEc, run the setup program and follow the on screen prompts as described below:

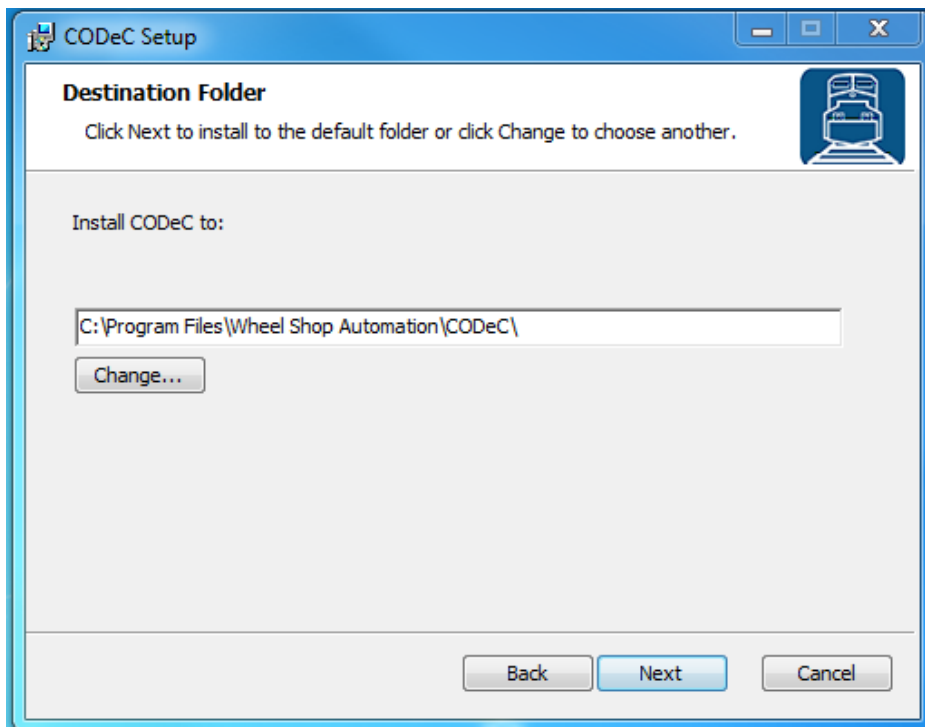
Click Next to continue.



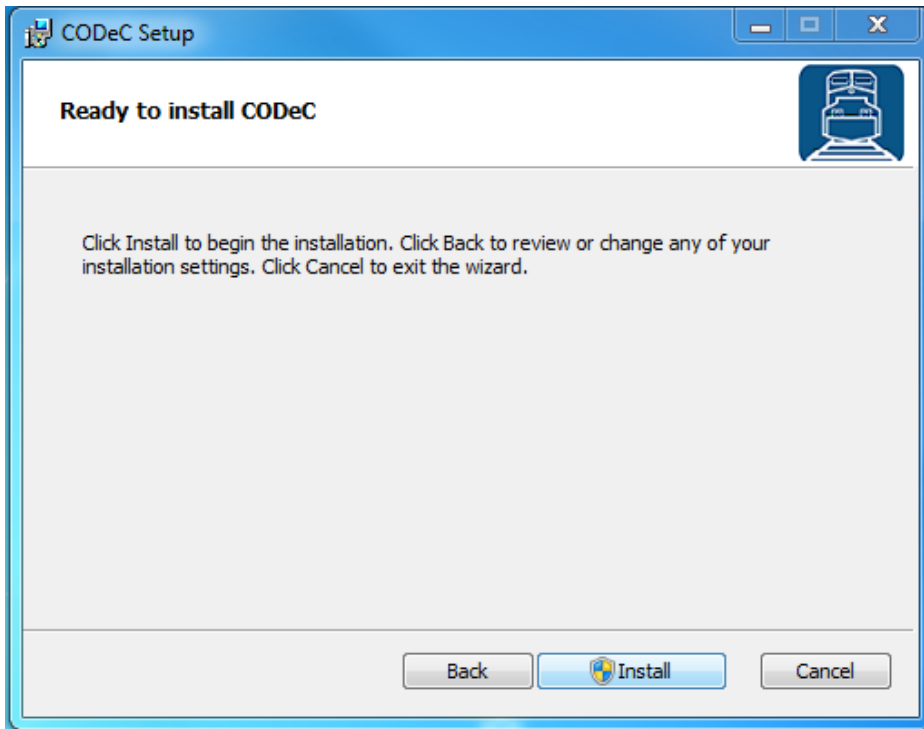
Accept the license agreement and click Next.



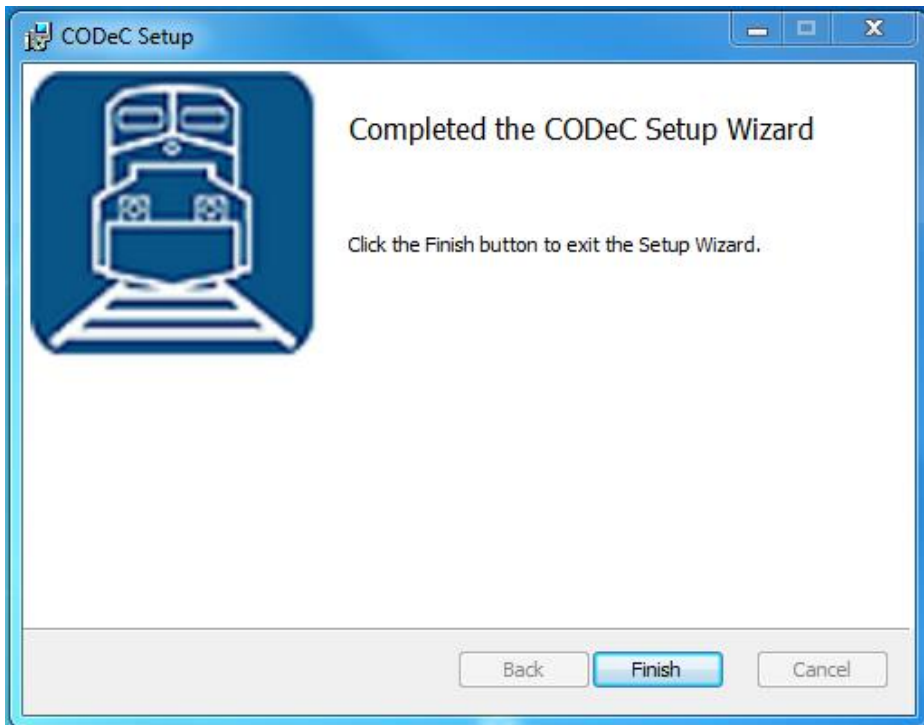
Select the location where you would like to install CODEc to and click Next.



Click Install to begin the installation.



When the installation has completed, click Finish to close the setup application.



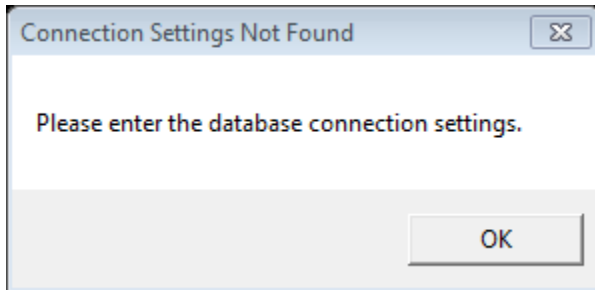
Initial Setup

Once you have installed CODEC you can double click the desktop shortcut to start the application.

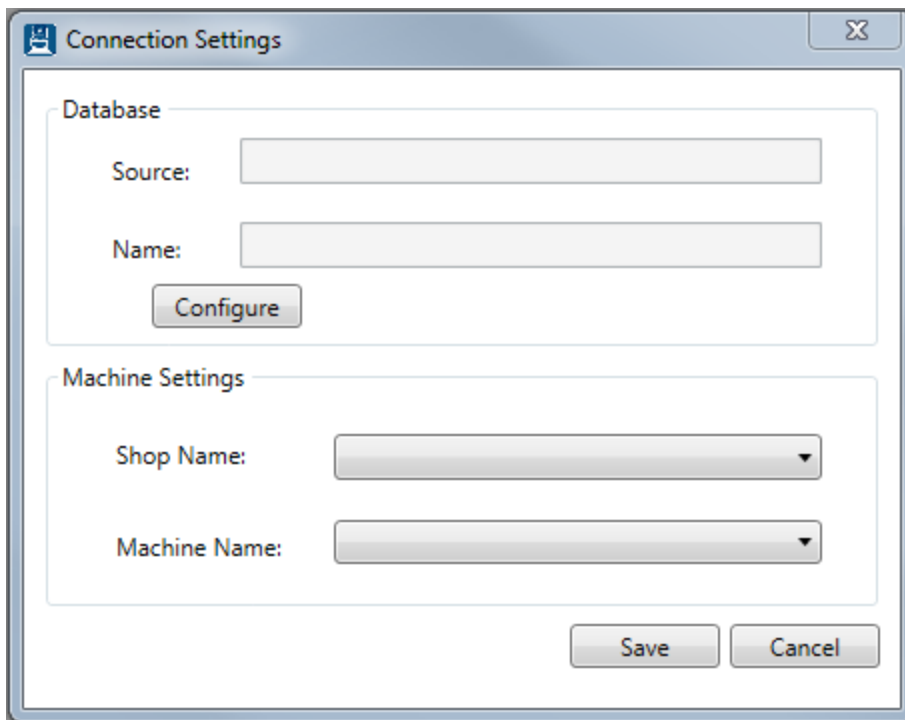
Database Connection Settings

CODEC requires access to an instance of the RIMS database which can be installed on the same computer or any computer with network access and the required permissions. The first time you run CODEC you will be prompted to enter your database connection settings.

Click OK to display the Connection Settings dialog.



Click Configure.



Enter the connection settings for the server where the RIMS database is located. If you are unsure contact your IT Department or our [support team](#).

Click Test Connection to verify your settings.

Click OK when you are finished.

Configure Server Connection

Server Name Refresh

Log on to the server

Use Windows Authentication

Use SQL Server Authentication

User Name:

Password:

Save my password

Connect to a database

Select or enter a database name

Attach to a database file

Browse

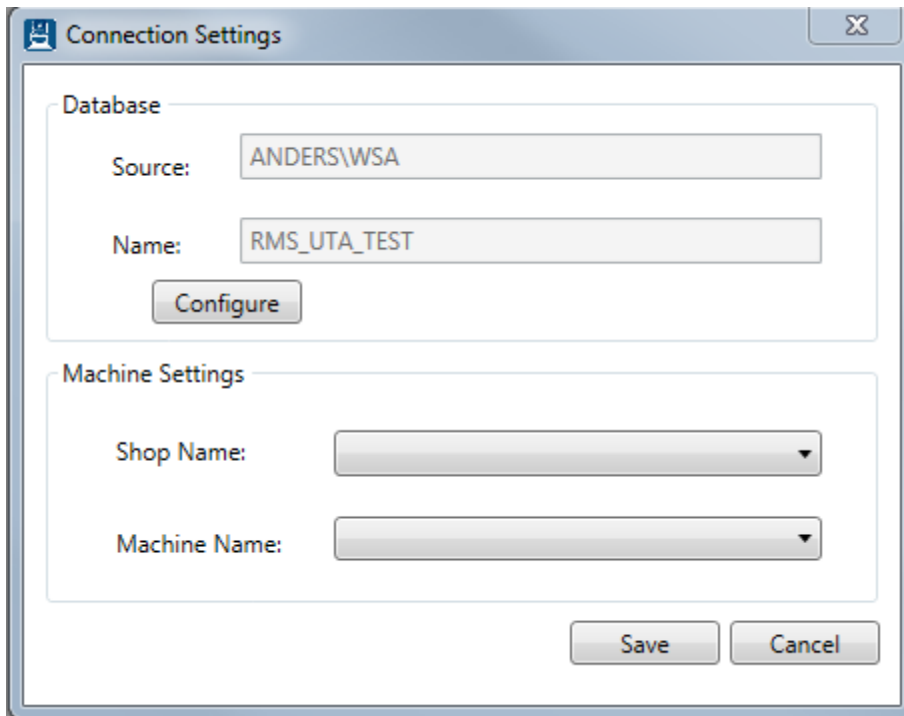
Logical Name

Test Connection

OK Cancel

Click the Shop Name drop down to select the location for which you want to configure this installation. RIMS can support multiple locations or 'shops' hosted in one database. In order to isolate the data and settings to your location you must provide this information.

After you have selected the Shop Name click on Machine Name and select the machine you are installing on. Some settings are stored per machine so this setting will be used to differentiate each installation.



The screenshot shows a 'Connection Settings' dialog box with the following fields and controls:

- Database Section:**
 - Source: ANDERS\WSA
 - Name: RMS_UTA_TEST
 - Configure button
- Machine Settings Section:**
 - Shop Name: (dropdown menu)
 - Machine Name: (dropdown menu)
- Bottom Right:** Save and Cancel buttons.

Click Save to save your changes.

Once you have entered your database settings you will be prompted to log on. You must have an existing user name and password in the RIMS system. If you do not have this information, contact your manager or a system administrator. See the following section regarding [Log on](#) for more information.

Log on / Log off

Each user is given a unique user name and password for the RIMS system for authentication and accountability. You must provide your user name and password each time CODEC starts before you can begin. Your log on also determines what functions you have permissions to perform. Users and Groups are managed from Car Manager. For more information about permissions and users refer to the Car Manager User Guide.

A screenshot of the CODEC login dialog box. The window has a blue header with the text "CODEC" in white. Below the header is a white area with a yellow padlock icon on the left. To the right of the padlock are two text input fields: "Name:" followed by an empty text box, and "Password:" followed by an empty text box. Below the input fields are two buttons: "Login" and "Cancel".

CODEC

 Name:

Password:

Login Cancel

To log off the current user select Log off from the File menu.

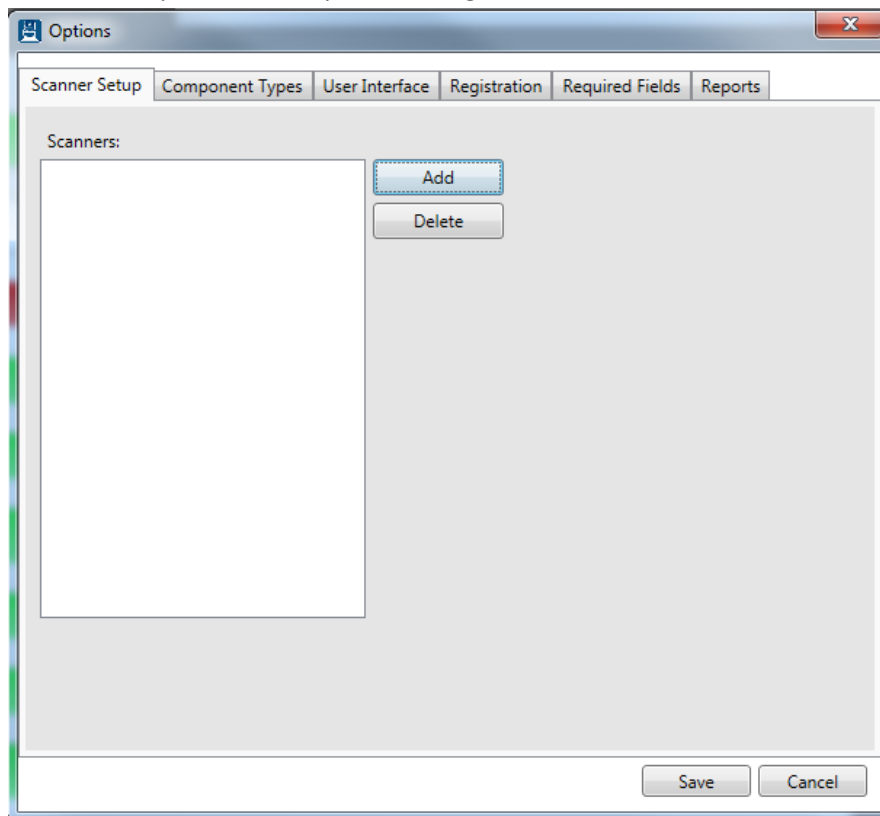
Options

As with most applications there are system settings and user preferences that can be configured to customize the application to each shops preference. Most of these can be configured from the Options dialog which can be found under the Tools menu.

Scanner Setup

In addition to collecting data for each component, a Component ID barcode label must be applied to the component as defined by Addendum S-920 of the AAR MSRP manual. The barcode label that is applied must also be recorded along with the component data. Although this can be entered manually it is recommended that a barcode scanner be used to scan the unique number on the Component ID barcode label.

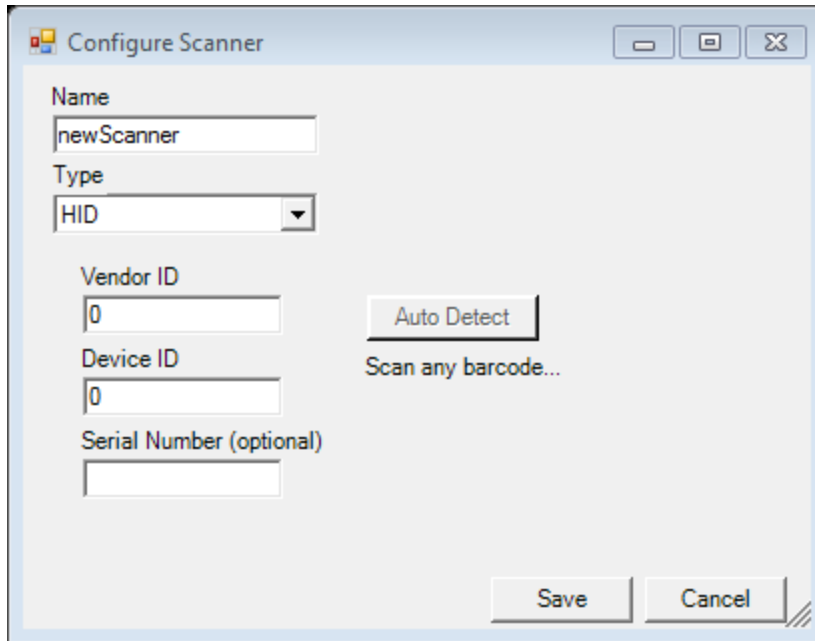
Before you can use a barcode scanner with the CODEC system you must first configure it from the Scanner Setup tab of the Options dialog.



The Scanners list box shows all of the currently configured scanners.

Select a scanner from the list and click Delete to remove an existing scanner

Click Add to configure a new scanner. This will open the Configure Scanner dialog.



Enter a name for the scanner. This could be used to designate location like 'Left Side' or 'North' or it could be a model number or color.

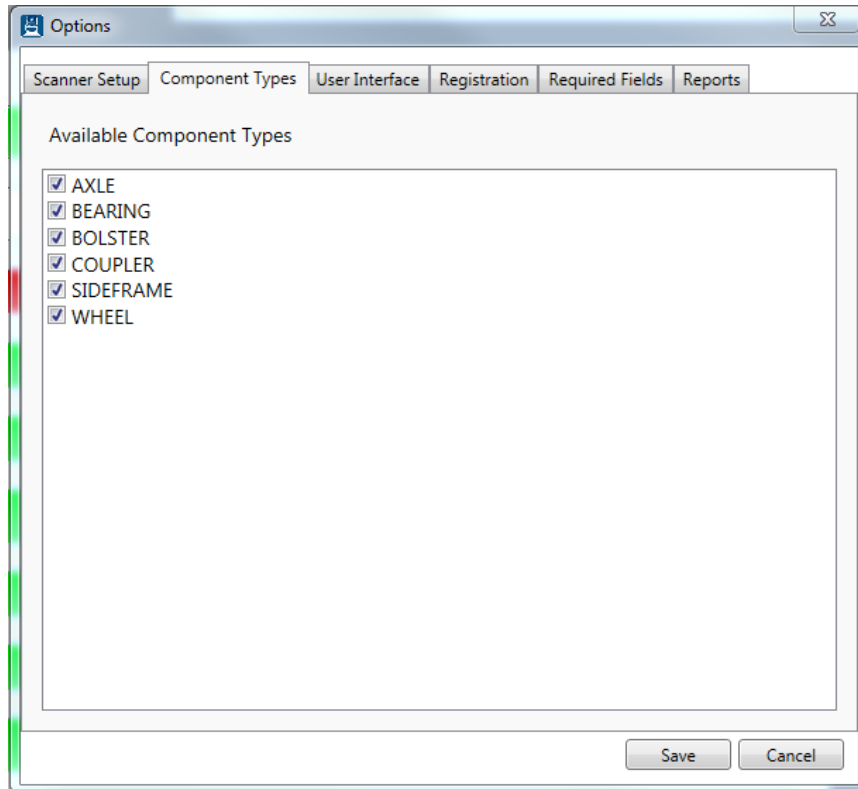
CODeC allows multiple barcode scanner interface types including USB HID, Serial (RS232), and Ethernet (TCP/IP). Select the interface Type for your scanner. USB HID is the most common.

In most cases you can use the Auto Detect feature by clicking the Auto Detect button. For RS232 scanners all available COM ports will be tested to look for a recognized serial scanner. For USB you must scan a barcode with the desired scanner during the Auto Detect time limit (10 seconds). Follow the on screen prompts to auto detect your scanner.

Click Save to complete the scanner setup.

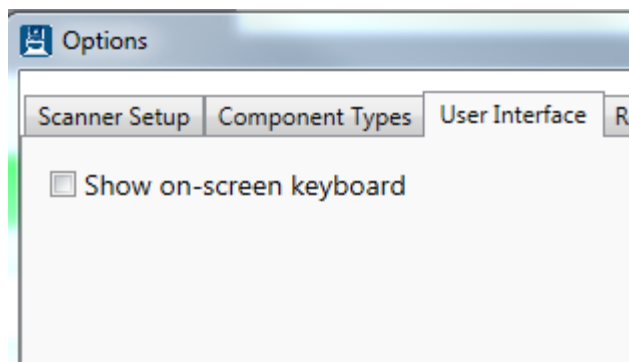
Component Types

CODeC allows users to specify which components can be modified at the specific machine. The Component Types tab in the Options menu lists available component types; check/uncheck the appropriate component types to control which can be modified from the [Component Data Entry](#) screen.



User Interface

The User Interface menu tab allows you to enable/disable the on-screen keyboard.



Registration

The Registration tab allows you to specify your connection information to the RIMS services.

The screenshot shows the 'Options' dialog box with the 'Registration' tab selected. The 'Host' field is an empty text box. The 'Callback Port' field contains the number '80'. Below these fields is a checkbox labeled 'Registration Enabled' which is currently unchecked.

In the Host field, enter the network name or IP address of the computer running the RIMS service. For more information, contact an administrator or our [support team](#).

Required Fields

The Required Fields tab allows you to specify which fields are required for saving a component. Simply check/uncheck the box next to the field to indicate its requirement status.

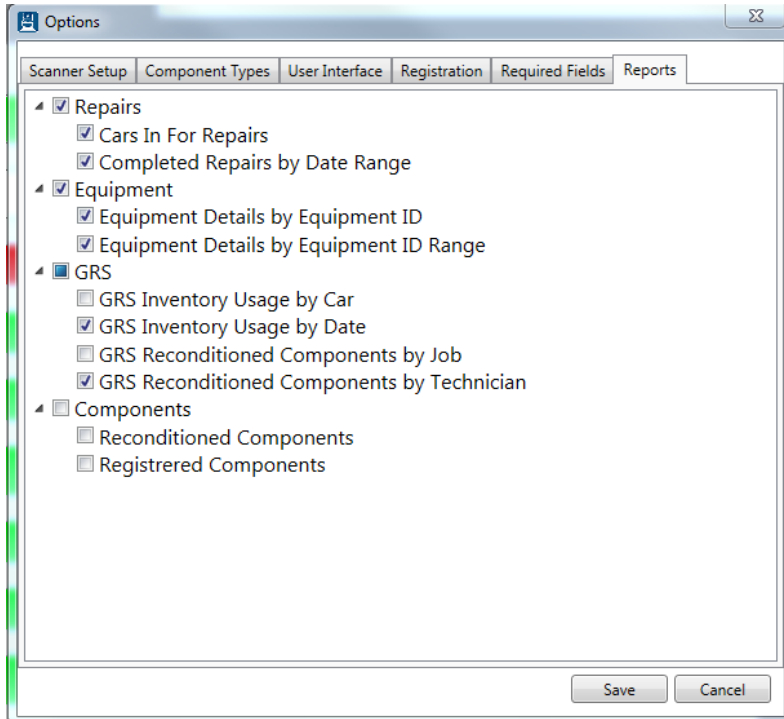
The screenshot shows the 'Options' dialog box with the 'Required Fields' tab selected. At the top, there is a dropdown menu for 'Available Component Types' set to 'AXLE'. Below this is a table with columns for 'Required', 'Field Name', 'Element ID', and 'Page'. All checkboxes in the 'Required' column are unchecked. At the bottom of the dialog, there is a checkbox for 'Require Component ID' (unchecked) and 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Required	Field Name	Element ID	Page
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facility Code	C303	Default
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manufactured Timestamp	C304	Default
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diameter	C305	Default
<input type="checkbox"/>	Length	C306	Default
<input type="checkbox"/>	Condition	C307	Default
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serial Number	C308	Default
<input type="checkbox"/>	AAR Type	C309	Default
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heat Grade	C310	Default
<input type="checkbox"/>	Body Design	C313	Default

Note: This changes the requirements to save a component to the database. RailInc maintains its own registration requirements.

Reports

The Reports tab allows you to specify which reports are accessible from CODEC. To select/deselect an entire group, use the check box next to the group name. To use only certain reports from a group, use the check boxes by the individual reports.



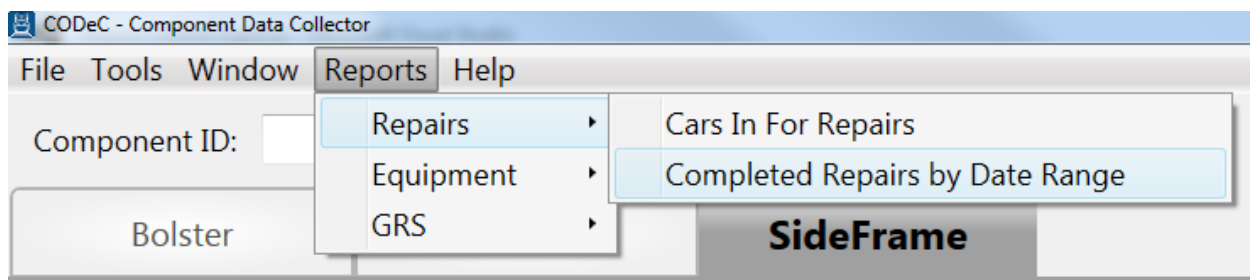
For more information about adding and removing reports, see the Car Manager User Guide.

Full Screen Mode

Although CODEc is intended as a stand-alone client running on the shop floor, some shops might find it useful to run CODEc on an existing computer that must perform additional tasks. For this reason we have included an option to run CODEc in a windowed state instead of the default full screen application. This will enable you to easily switch between applications without having to exit CODEc. You can toggle 'Full Screen Mode' from the Window menu to select between running full screen and windowed. You must have the appropriate permissions to change this setting.

Reports

CODEc includes the option to generate and view reports. To access reports, click the 'Reports' item in the menu bar. Then, select the report you wish to generate.



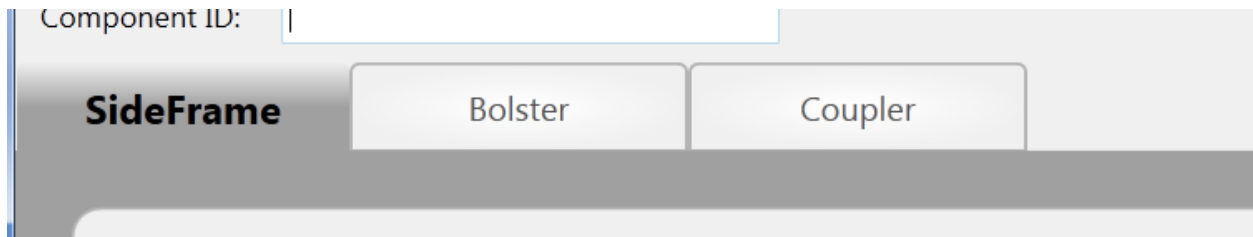
To manage which reports appear in this menu, use the [Reports](#) tab in the options menu. New reports must be imported through Car Manager.

Component Data Entry

Component Types

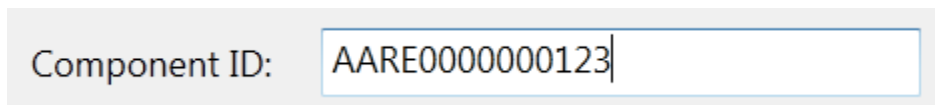
CODeC allows you to record data for almost every type of component required by the AAR. The RIMS system is designed to allow adding additional component types as they become required by the AAR's [CEPM project](#).

To select a component type that is configured for data collection, click on the tab at the top of the screen.



Component ID

In addition to the Component Element data, each component must be labeled with a Component ID barcode label and the number of that label must be entered in addition to the element data. This label is a combination of the company code (2-4 characters) as designated by the AAR and a unique 10 digit id number to identify each component for a total of 14 characters. (If the company code is less than 4 characters it is padded with spaces to total 4 characters).



Component Elements

Each component has a list of 'elements' or data fields that can be collected. This list is different for each component type. Each field can be set as required or optional. Please keep in mind that requirements are set by the AAR as well as by the shop administrators.

Below is an example of the elements available for a side frame component.

SideFrame		Bolster	Coupler
Foundry AAR Facility Code	[Red Dropdown]	Heat Treat Load Number	[Text]
Cast Month	[Red Dropdown]	Reconditioner AAR Facility Code	[Dropdown]
Design Feature Code	[Red Dropdown]	Cast Trademark	[Text]
AAR ID Code	[Red Dropdown]	Classification / Reconditioned Date	[Date Picker]
Pattern Number	[Red Dropdown]	Condition Code	[Red Dropdown]
Drawing Number	[Red Dropdown]	Column Wear Plate Installed	[Dropdown]
Drawing Number Revision	[Red Dropdown]	Nominal Wheel Base	[Red Dropdown]
Serial Number	[Red Dropdown]	Button Count	[Red Dropdown]
Heat Number	[Text]	Cast Year	[Red Dropdown]

Element data can be any of any of the following types: text, numbers, dates, or list selection (from drop down list). The data is validated to make sure it meets the required format.

Fields shown in red are required in order to register a component with RailInc. If any required field is left blank the user will be allowed to save the incomplete record, but the component will not be able to be registered until the missing fields have been filled.

Once you have entered all required component data and applied a Component ID label you can click Save to save your changes.

Cancel will reset the screen without saving the data you entered/changed.

Default Field Values

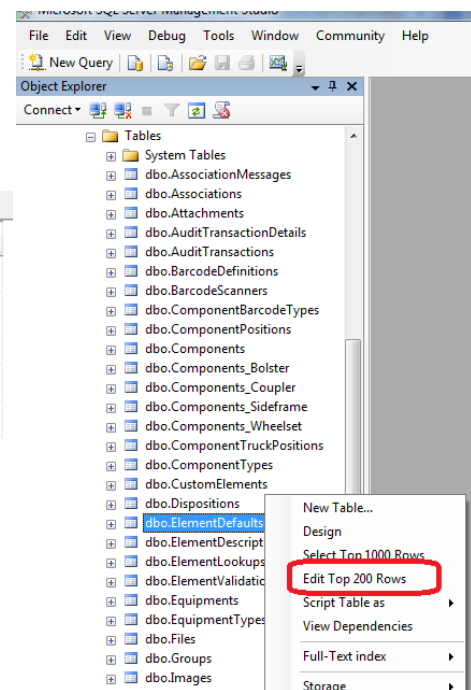
CODEC allows field values to be set to default values in the case that certain elements do not change; this can be useful if a station runs components where certain characteristics are always the same.

Another option is for fields to be set to repeat the previously saved value; this allows for easy incrimination or makes it easier if a large batch of similar components is being processed.

To set default values for component details, database changes must be made. If you have any questions or doubts about completing this task, contact an administrator or our [support staff](#), as incorrectly modifying the database can cause serious problems throughout all apps in your RIMS setup.

To set default values, you must open your database in Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio. Expand the 'Tables' folder and then right-click on the 'dbo.ElementDefaults' table. Select 'Edit Top 200 Rows' from the menu.

ANDERS\WSA.RMS...ElementDefaults				
	AARShopCode	MachineNo	ElementID	Value
▶	AIC	21	C401	=lastvalue
	AIC	21	C402	=Today.Month
	AIC	21	C403	=lastvalue
	AIC	21	C404	=lastvalue
	AIC	21	C405	=lastvalue



- **AARShopCode:** The shop code for the current station.
- **MachineNo:** The machine number for the current station. This can be found in the 'dbo.Machines' table.
- **ElementID:** This is the RailInc specified element ID for the field to be defaulted. It can be found in the 'dbo.ElementDescriptions' table or by hovering over the field with your mouse in CODEC.
- **Value:** This is the default value to be applied to the field. There are several special commands that can be used, including “=lastvalue” which defaults the field to the last saved value. Other special commands include “=Now” to insert the current date and time, “=Today” for the current date, “=Today.Month” for the current month, and “=Today.Year” for the current year.

Again, please exercise caution when modifying any table in your database. If you have any questions, STOP and [call us](#). We're here to help.

Component Search

Search by Component

You can modify the data for a component that you already entered by searching for the component. Click the Search button in the top right corner of the screen to open the search Dialog.

Component ID	Type	Serial Number	Month	Year	Created
AARE954000044	SideFrame				7/30/2013
AARE9540100021	SideFrame	1234654897			7/26/2013
AARE9540100022	SideFrame	4567894652			7/26/2013
AARE9540100023	SideFrame				7/26/2013
AARE9540100024	SideFrame				7/26/2013
AARE9540100025	SideFrame				7/26/2013
AARE9540100026	SideFrame				7/26/2013
AARE9540100027	SideFrame				7/26/2013
AARE9540100028	SideFrame				7/26/2013
AARE9540100031	SideFrame	1418948			7/29/2013

If the Component ID label is available and you have [configured a barcode scanner](#) you can simply scan the barcode to automatically retrieve the component record and display the element data.

You can also manually search for the component using part of all of the Component ID. As you type the Component ID a list of matching components will be displayed (once the results have been narrowed down to a manageable view). If you see a message indicating too many results to display you need to enter more of the Component ID to narrow down the results. If you see a message indicating no results found then the Component ID you entered does not match any components in the database. See [Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions](#) for help on problems with searching.

Search by Serial Number/Cast Date

CODEC also allows you to search for components by Serial Number and Cast Month and Year. To search by Serial Number or Cast Date, select Serial Number from the dropdown menu in the upper left corner of the Search for Component screen.

The image shows a dropdown menu with three options: 'Component ID:' (selected), 'Component ID:', and 'Serial Number:'.

Entering data into any of the three fields will display matching records in the results box. Once you are through entering the search data, click Search to display results.

The screenshot shows the 'Search for Component' dialog box. The search criteria are: Serial Number: 1, Month: (empty), Year: (empty). The results table is as follows:

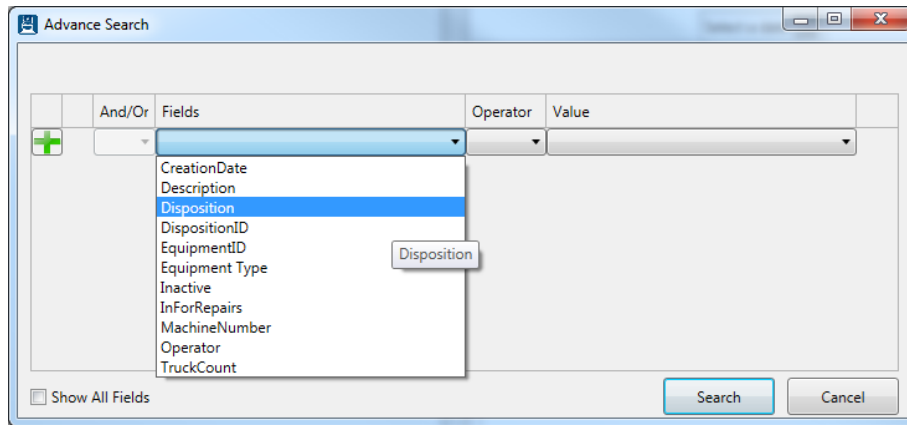
Component ID	Type	Serial Number	Month	Year	Created
AAAA0001101010	Bolster	12			7/10/2013
AARE9540200011	Bolster	1222222222			7/26/2013
ABCD0000002022	Bolster	123			7/10/2013
ABCD0000001231	Bolster	123			7/10/2013
AARE9540200022	Bolster	1234			7/30/2013
RAIL0000009003	SideFrame	1			6/25/2013
AARE9954010001	SideFrame	12			8/1/2013
AARE0000133222	SideFrame	1234			1/1/0001
AARE0000023233	SideFrame	1234			7/1/2013
AARE9540100021	SideFrame	1234654897			7/26/2013

Buttons: Select, Cancel

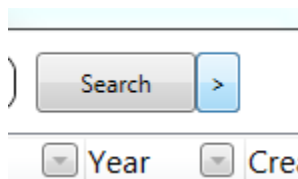
Once you have found the component you are searching for you can double-click it or select it and click 'Select' to retrieve the component record and display the element data.

You can then make any necessary changes and Save or click Cancel to discard any changes and enter a new component.

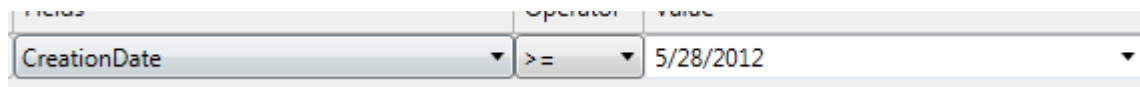
Advanced Search



CODeC's Advanced Search feature allows users to customize searches beyond the standard search criteria to create targeted searches. To access the Advanced Search window, open the standard search window and click the '>' button.

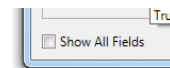


To begin creating your advanced search, select a search field from the dropdown box and enter/select a value for the field; when appropriate, you may change the operator to return a range of results instead of only those that equal the criteria. For example, the search below would return all components created AFTER the selected date; changing the operator to '<=' would return components created BEFORE the selected date.

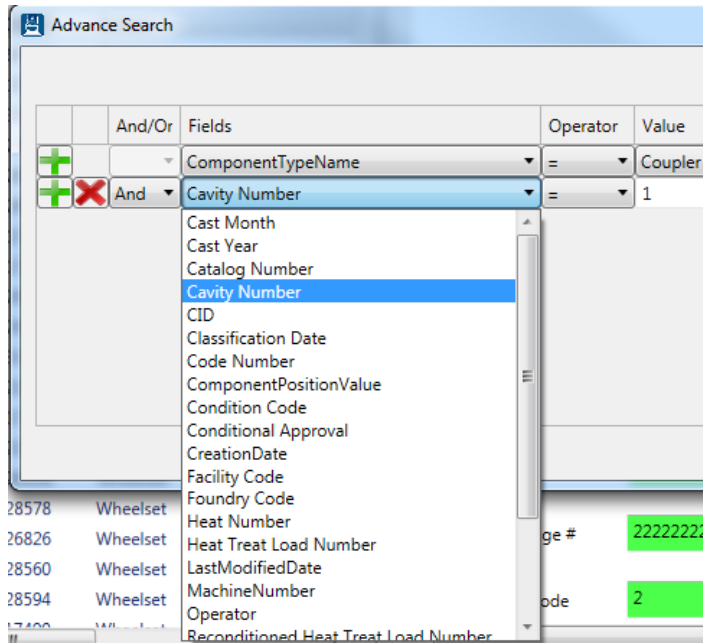


Once your first condition is complete, click the green '+' button on the left of the window if you want to add another condition to your search.

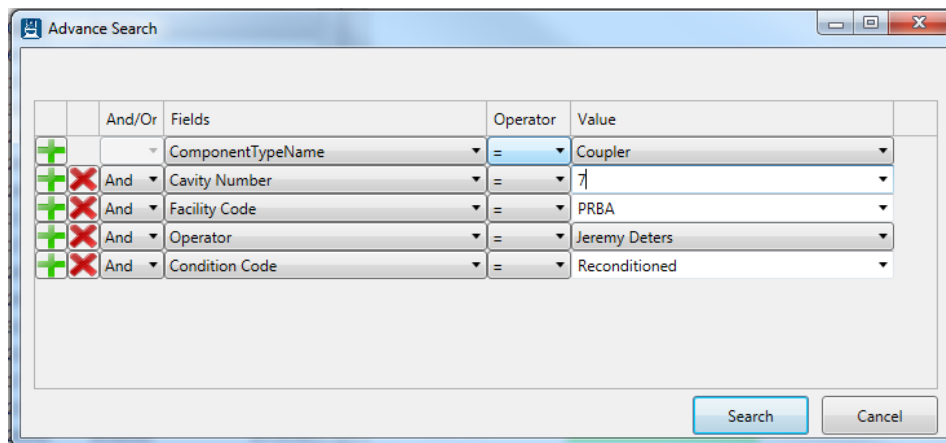
CODeC's Advanced Search only searches certain fields by default; in order to specify a field that is not shown by default, check the 'Show All Fields' box in the bottom left corner of the pane. Editing the fields shown by default requires altering your database entries for the element descriptions; for more information about this, contact your administrator or our [support staff](#).



In order to search based on criteria that is specific to one type of component, such as a coupler's cavity number, you must first select 'ComponentTypeName' and specify the type of component to which the criteria applies. Once a component type is selected, click the green '+' button on the left of the window to add another condition to your search. Now, the Fields dropdown will include characteristics specific to the type of component selected in the first row.



When you have finished entering the desired search conditions, click Search. Your results will display in the Components List just like a standard search.



Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. When searching for a component I receive a message that says 'No Results Found...' but I know entered the component. Why is it unable to be found?

A. Verify you are typing the number correctly in the search text box. If possible try scanning the Component ID barcode.

Try entering the numeric portion of the Component ID without the company code and leading zeros. It is possible the Component ID was entered incorrectly when the component was saved.

If you cannot find the component from the CODEC search dialog we recommend you use Car Manager to search for the component. Car Manager allows you to perform a more advanced search by component entry date, component type, and more.

Q. When searching for a component I receive a message that says 'Too Many Results...'. What does this mean?

A. The search dialog will show a list of components that match the search text you entered, but only if the search matches ten or fewer components. Continue entering the Component ID until your results are narrowed down to ten or fewer matching components.

Q. When searching for a component by cast date, the component I'm looking for isn't displayed in the results box, but I know I'm entering the correct month and/or year. Why won't my component show up?

A. In order to search for a component using the Serial Number option from the dropdown menu, the component must have been saved with a serial number entered. If no serial number was saved to the component, it will not appear in the results of a Search by Serial Number; you must search for the component by its Component ID in order to retrieve the record. You can then add a serial number to the component and it will appear in future searches by serial number.

Component ID	Component Type	Serial Number	Month	Year	Created Date
AARE0000000001	Bolster	1234123112	01	13	04/22/2013
AARE0000000002	Bolster	1	01	01	04/22/2013
AARE0000000003	SideFrame	1	02	02	04/22/2013
AARE0000000004	Bolster	987654321	12	99	04/22/2013
AARE0000000005	Bolster	23456789	12	89	04/22/2013
AARE0000000006	Bolster	5	04	05	04/29/2013
AARE0000000007	Bolster		02	03	04/29/2013

**Component AARE0000000007 would not appear if you searched for components cast in February of 2003 because it does not have a serial number.

Appendix B: License

RAILCAR INTEGRATED MAINTENCANCE SUITE END USER LICENCSE AGREEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Read Before Installing or Using Software

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Appendix C: Contact Information

AIC Rail
6100 Getty Drive
Suite N
Sherwood, AR 72117

Online Support

Visit our website at www.aicrail.com for 24/7 technical information and available downloads
Email us at support@wheelshopautomation.com

Phone Support (Existing support contract or credit card required)

Call 1-501-834-9540 or 1-877-834-9540 (toll free)