



Railway Interchange 2011 Frequently Asked Questions



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GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is Railway Interchange 2011?

Railway Interchange 2011 is a joint rail supply exhibition and technical session event to be held on September 18 – 21, 2011 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. This huge rail industry event incorporates:

- 3 Tradeshows-in-1 Exhibitions by:
 - Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association ([REMSA](#))
 - Railway Systems Suppliers Inc. ([RSSI](#))
 - Railway Supply Institute, Inc. ([RSI](#))
 - Rail Technical Sessions by:
 - American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association ([AREMA](#))
 - Coordinated Mechanical Associations ([CMA](#))
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2. Tell me more about the organizations sponsoring Railway Interchange 2011.

AREMA, the [American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association](#), is an international individual membership professional association that represents the personnel who design, construct and maintain the railways and transit systems around the world. AREMA, through its 29 Technical Committees also develops and distributes the standards and recommended practices for the railway engineering industry.

RSI, the [Railway Supply Institute](#), is an international trade association that acts on behalf rail suppliers to North American freight and passenger railroads. RSI represents a diverse group of rail suppliers involved in the manufacture of products and services in the freight car, locomotive, maintenance-of-way, communications and signaling, and transit industries. RSI connects members to their customers and partners, supports the improvement of the industry, assists members in the global marketplace, and represents the industry during the regulatory and legislative process.

CMA, the Coordinated Mechanical Associations are administered by RSI and consist of:

- Air Brake Association, Inc. ([ABA](#))
- International Association of Railway Operating Officers ([IAROO](#))
- Locomotive Maintenance Officers Association ([LMOA](#))
- Mechanical Association Railcar Technical Services ([MARTS](#))

REMSA, the Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association is a trade association that represents companies that manufacture or sell maintenance-of-way equipment, products and services.

RSSI, the [Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc.](#), is a trade association that represents companies serving the communication and signal segment of the rail transportation industry.

3. Why should I attend Railway Interchange 2011 if I'm not an exhibitor or presenter?

See the Finest in Rail Innovation. See what is new and innovative across the rail supply industry by viewing the supply industry's most extensive exhibition ever in North America. Everyone in the railroad business will be there, why not you? See who's exhibiting. [RSI](#), [REMSA](#), [RSSI](#)

You Can Learn From The Best. Hear ground-breaking and useful panel discussions and meet your industry peers by attending the CMA & AREMA sessions. There you'll find presentations by industry experts on a broad range of engineering, IT and economic issues from structures, passenger & transit, maintenance, communications and signaling to the cutting edge technologies and efforts to make freight and passenger rail safer

[View CMA Technical Program Schedules](#) / [View AREMA Technical Program Schedule](#)

Meet with current and potential partners, suppliers and customers. Network and share ideas with industry colleagues, influential peers and decision makers. Expected to attend, among others, are freight railroad CEOs and operating officers, state and federal transportation officials, locomotive manufactures, leasing companies, and numerous component suppliers.

International Attendance. Railway Interchange 2011 will have a global audience for exhibitors and attendees alike. The show will include exhibitors from China, Germany, Italy, Canada and Brazil.

Minneapolis is a great city. Fall in Minneapolis is gorgeous with pleasant temperatures and sunshine. The Minneapolis Convention Center is located right downtown so you'll be near the city's many urban attractions such as fine dining, shopping and museums. You'll find plenty of opportunities to enjoy yourself and unwind after show hours.

[Experience Minneapolis](#) / [Minneapolis Visitor Website](#)

Secretary of Transportation Keynote Speaker. Ray LaHood, the US Department of Transportation's Secretary of Transportation, will keynote Railway Interchange 2011's Opening Session. Show exhibitors and attendees alike will hear Secretary LaHood outline his views of the particular challenges railroaders face in the coming months and years.

You can't afford NOT to attend. This joint exhibition is the largest rail supply trade show since the 1960s - come and be a part of this historic event. [View the full schedule.](#)

4. I've never been to Minneapolis. What are some of the attractions? Not only are the indoor and outdoor venues top notch, Railway Interchange 2011 is being held at one of the most fun cities in America at a beautiful time of year. Nudged right against the Mississippi River, Minneapolis boasts many urban attractions such as fine dining, shopping, museums, and world class accommodations, not to mention the world famous Mall of America. Sidewalk cafes and shopping line Nicollet Mall, entertainment abounds in the Warehouse District and Broadway shows are onstage in the Hennepin Theatre District. You'll find plenty of opportunities to entertain and connect after show hours. [Experience Minneapolis](#) / [Minneapolis Visitor Website](#)

5. Can you tell me the Railway Interchange 2011 venue details?

- Indoor Exhibits - [Minneapolis Convention Center](#) in downtown Minneapolis.
 - Hosted by: REMSA, RSI, RSSI
 - Technical Sessions - Minneapolis Convention Center in downtown Minneapolis.
 - Hosted by: AREMA, CMA
 - Outdoor Exhibits - Canadian Pacific's Humboldt Yard
 - Hosted by: RSI, REMSA
 - Note: Free bus transportation will be provided to and from the Minneapolis Convention Center and Humboldt Yard every half hour. Parking is not available at Humboldt Yard.
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6. Will There Be Railway Interchange 2012? In 2012 RSI, RSSI, REMSA and AREMA will have individual exhibitions. In 2013, the sponsoring organizations will again join forces to host Railway Interchange 2013 – September 29 – October 2 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

RAILWAY INTERCHANGE 2011 REGISTRATION & PAYMENT INFORMATION

7. **General Registration Information:** Attendee and exhibitor registration for is being coordinated by American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA). As the registrar for Railway Interchange 2011, all registrations, confirmations and payments are processed by AREMA. When you register choose your organization specific association affiliate (RSI/CMA, REMSA, RSSI, AREMA).

Those wanting to attend Railway Interchange 2011 can [register online](#) or through a [downloadable / faxable form](#) that can be sent directly to AREMA at 301-459-8077. [View online registration hints & tips](#).
Note: Registration fees will increase on August 10, 2011.

8. **How much does it cost to attend Railway Interchange 2011?** You can view registration rates for Railway Interchange 2011 online here http://www.railwayinterchange.org/registration_info.html.
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9. **Does everyone have to register?** Yes, both attendees and exhibitors must register. As registration is required for any part of Railway Interchange you must register and obtain a badge in order to have access to the various conferences, exhibits and other events. Even those granted no-charge access must register and get a badge. Badges must be worn throughout the event.
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10. **I don't want to register online, is there a form I can fill out instead?** Yes, you can fill download a form online here: http://www.railwayinterchange.org/download/Registration_Form-Railway_Interchange_2011.pdf, and send in to AREMA.
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11. **I need to register ten or more people, is there a way to register a group all at once?** Yes, for attendees registering ten or more people, contact AREMA at 301.459.3200.
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12. **Who has no charge access to exhibits?** Railroad Employees and Government Employees can register for Railway Interchange 2011 exhibits for free (*this does not include CMA or AREMA technical sessions*).
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13. **I only want to attend the exhibit portion of the show. Do I still need to register?** Yes, everyone must register. AREMA, as the designated Registrar, processes all registrations. If you also wish to attend AREMA seminars or CMA Technical Programs you must register for those in addition to the exhibition registration. [View Registration Pricing](#).

If you are a railroad, government or academia employee, your registration is free; however you must be registered and obtain a badge.

Attendees can [register online](#) or through a [downloadable / faxable form](#).
[View online registration hints & tips](#).

14. **Does registration include the outdoor exhibits? How do I get to Humboldt Yard?** Yes, exhibition registration includes access to the indoor and outdoor exhibits. There will be shuttle service from the Convention Center to/from Humboldt Yard every thirty minutes. No parking will be available at Humboldt Yard.
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15. When I register how do I know what affiliation to select? What if I'm affiliated with more than one organization, or none? If you are going only to the Exhibition, try to select the trade association (REMSA, RSI, RSSI) that most closely relates to your primary work activity. If you are attending the CMA Technical Presentations and wish to attend the Exhibition, please select RSI.

16. Can I register on site for the exhibition and the conferences? Yes, registration for Railway Interchange 2011 will be available on-site. We recommend that all attendees register for the show before August 10, 2011 when costs will increase. Attendees can [register online](#) or through a [downloadable / faxable form](#).

17. I am an exhibitor. How do I register? Exhibitors can [register online](#) or through a [downloadable / faxable form](#). In order to receive a badge designated "Exhibitor", you must register for the Exhibition and pay the specified fee as an "Exhibiting Member Employee". All exhibiting companies must register and pay full registration costs (\$250 per person) through the [Railway Interchange 2011 website](#).

18. What is the cost to attend the CMA Technical Sessions and the exhibition? For non-railroads, the technical session [registration fee](#) is \$250 and the exhibition fee is \$250. Total fees to attend the CMA technical sessions and tour the exhibits should not exceed \$500.

Members of the CMA and those wanting to attend their technical sessions can [register online](#) or through a [faxable form](#). If you would like to attend the technical sessions and visit the exhibits, you must first register online for the CMA and then go to exhibit only registration block and click on exhibiting member employee.

19. Tell me more about the CMA Technical Programs? The [Coordinated Mechanical Associations](#): The Air Brake Association (ABA), The Mechanical Association Railcar Technical Services (MARTS), The Locomotive Maintenance Officers Association (LMOA), and The International Association of Railway Operating Officers (IAROO), will be hosting technical sessions to educate attendees on new technologies in the rail industry. The CMA Technical sessions will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The ABA technical sessions will focus on all things related to air brakes. Featured sessions will focus on the single car test with presentations from representatives from BNSF, UP, TTX and CN. Other issues covered in the ABA sessions will include: Dew Pointing Testing, Cold weather study, hot and cold wheel test, piston travel adjustment & inspection, compressed air quality and reports from the Breaking Systems Committee. [View ABA Program Schedule](#)

IAROO technical sessions will focus on Positive Train Control, In-Train forces, Derailment Simulation, Braking and Train Handling, Cab Technology, Locomotive Engineer Decertification and Energy Management. [View IAROO Program Schedule](#)

The LMOA technical sessions will focus on reports and papers from the Diesel Mechanical Maintenance Committee, the Fuel, Lubricants and Environmental Committee, the Diesel Electrical Maintenance Committee, the Diesel Material Control Committee, the Shop, Equipment and Processes Committee and the New Technologies Committee. [View LMOA Program Schedule](#)

MARTS will cover a variety of topics during its technical sessions including presentations from the Protective Coating Committee, equipment performance monitoring, AAR research, tank car R&D, technology driven train inspection, on board and wayside condition and performance handling and AAR interchange rules. [View MARTS Program Schedule](#)

20. What does CMA Registration include? CMA Registration includes access to the joint AREMA/CMA Opening Session on Sept. 19 and all [CMA Technical Presentations](#). CMA Conference Registration does not include Exhibition admission. Please select the appropriate option from the Exhibition Registration section on the Registration Form. CMA members who do not qualify for one of the "Complimentary" admission categories may register at the special "Exhibiting Member Employee" rate.

[View full schedule](#) with the CMA session times and dates.

21. What does the Exhibition Registration include? Exhibition Registration includes access to the Exhibit Halls in the Minneapolis Convention Center and outside exhibits located at Humboldt Yard. The Exhibits in the Convention Center include three individual concentrations:

- Maintenance-of-Way suppliers under the auspices of REMSA – The Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association
- Communications and Signals suppliers under the auspices of RSSI – Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc.
- Mechanical suppliers under the auspices of RSI – Railway Supply Institute.

The outside exhibits are operated by REMSA and RSI. All together they represent the largest ever North American Exhibition encompassing all aspects of the railway industry.

22. I work for a railcar leasing company. Do I need to pay a fee to attend Railway Interchange 2011?

The Railway Supply Institute has negotiated a [discounted Exhibition Registration Rate](#) for employees of equipment leasing companies and their customers attending Railway Interchange 2011.

Leasing company employees, leasing company customers and railroad shipper must register for the Railway Interchange 2011 via a special form, available through RSI. This form, available on RSI's website – http://www.rsiweb.org/pdfs/ri_rsi_shipperleasing_reg.pdf – should be completed and faxed to RSI at 202-347-0047. Once RSI verifies that the registrant is eligible for the reduced fee it will submit the registration for processing. Any questions regarding registration or Railway Interchange 2011 should be directed to RSI at 202-347-4664.

23. I work for a shipping company. Do I need to pay a fee to attend the Railway Interchange 2011 Exhibition? The Railway Supply Institute has negotiated a [discounted Exhibition Registration Rate](#) for employees of railroad shipping companies attending Railway Interchange 2011.

Leasing company employees, leasing company customers and railroad shipper must register for the Railway Interchange 2011 via a special form, available through RSI. This form, available on RSI's website – http://www.rsiweb.org/pdfs/ri_rsi_shipperleasing_reg.pdf – should be completed and faxed to RSI at 202-347-0047. Once RSI verifies that the registrant is eligible for the reduced fee it will submit the registration for processing. Any questions regarding registration or Railway Interchange 2011 should be directed to RSI at 202-347-4664.

24. I am a railroad or government employee - do I need to pay a fee to attend? Railroad and government employees, with valid employment ID, can register for the Exhibition only at no charge. If you wish to attend the AREMA or CMA Technical Sessions you must register with those associations and pay the applicable registration fee(s).

25. My spouse plans to attend Railway Interchange 2011 with me. Is there a separate spouse registration fee? Yes, all individuals attending any part of the Railway Interchange event must register and have a badge. Spouses of railroad, government or academia employees may register at no charge for the Exhibition. If you are not a spouse of one of the above, there is a registration fee.

However, if you are registered for the AREMA Conference, no additional registration fee is required to attend the Exhibition. Admission to the Exhibition is included with your AREMA registration fee.

HOUSING/TRAVEL INFORMATION

26. What is the best way to get to Minneapolis, Minnesota?

- All major airlines - United, US Air, American, Continental and Delta - serve the Minneapolis / St. Paul Airport (MSP).
 - Non-stop round trip flights from Chicago start at \$178.
 - Amtrak's Empire Builder serves Minneapolis-St. Paul.
 - Make train travel part of your RI2011 experience for about the same price as air fare
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27. How do I book a hotel room for Railway Interchange 2011? Those wanting to book a hotel room for Railway Interchange 2011 can do so [online here](#). ConferenceDirect is the official Housing Bureau for the show. In order to reserve a room in the hotel room blocks chosen for Railway Interchange you must use the services of ConferenceDirect. Please do not call hotels directly as cheaper room block rates will not apply. You can also call ConferenceDirect at 888-538-3920.

28. Why do I only see certain hotels when I go to the housing site to reserve a room? Each of the associations involved in Railway Interchange 2011 has selected host hotels to make it easier for attendees with similar interests to be together. When you selected your "affiliation", you were automatically directed to the group of hotels available to that organization. If you wish to select a different hotel for any reason, please contact Conference Direct (888-538-3920) for assistance.

29. I noticed that some of the hotels are not close to the Convention Center. Will there be a shuttle service? Yes. Shuttle service will be provided from most hotels. In addition, air conditioned, walk-able skyways are also available to all guests. These skyways go to and from the Minneapolis Convention Center throughout the downtown area. [View Skyways Link](#).

30. How can I extend my stay in Minneapolis? If you want to extend your stay over dates not available online, you will be put on a waiting list for those dates and receive an acknowledgement that the Housing Bureau is working with the hotel to acquire additional rooms to complete your stay. please call the Railway Interchange Housing Bureau with questions at +1.888.538.3920.

31. How can I be sure I get the best rates and accommodations? Room rates are guaranteed until August 10, 2011, as long as rooms remain in the Railway Interchange room blocks. After August 10, hotel room rates and/or availability cannot be guaranteed. Book early for best rates and availability!

32. How long can I make changes to my reservation? You may continue to modify or cancel a reservation via the Web or the Railway Interchange Housing Bureau through September 5, 2011 until 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

33. When can I call the Hotel to confirm my reservation? You can call the hotel directly on September 6, 2011 to confirm or make changes to your reservation. The Housing Bureau will be officially closed.

34. When will the hotel room blocks close? ConferenceDirect (the official housing bureau) will close on September 6, 2011. You will need to contact the hotel directly to make any changes or cancellations after that. We recommend that you [book your hotel room](#) by August 10, 2011 when lower rates apply.

35. At what time will the hotel apply the one-night room charge to my credit card to guarantee my hotel reservation? The hotel will begin to apply the charge to credit cards by early September.

36. I haven't received my hotel confirmation. When will it be sent to me? When you book your hotel reservation on-line, or with the Railway Interchange Housing Bureau (Conference Direct), you will automatically be sent an acknowledgement that your hotel request has been received. The acknowledgement will be sent by the Housing Bureau and is a record that your reservation has been processed and a room is being held for you.

37. I made my reservation and called the hotel to confirm, but they don't have my reservation in their system. Why? Do Not Call hotels directly until after September 6, to confirm your reservation. The hotels will be downloading all reservations from the RI2011 Housing Bureau at the end of August.

38. I need to cancel my hotel reservation. The Housing Bureau's Call Center will cancel your reservation until September 5, and send an email confirmation. You may also cancel your reservation online. Beginning September 6, please contact the hotel directly to cancel your reservation. To avoid a penalty equal to one night's room and tax charged by the hotel, please adhere to your hotel's cancellation policy.

- A processing fee of \$60 will be charged for cancellations made through August 29, 2011.
- Beginning August 30, 2011 a \$90 processing fee will be charged for all cancellations.
- These charges are in addition to the hotel's cancellation policy, which requires you to cancel your reservation 72 hours prior to arrival or one night's room and tax will be charged.

OTHER EXHIBITION INFORMATION

39. How Can My Company Exhibit at Railway Interchange? Indoor exhibit space at the Minneapolis Convention Center is completely sold out. To reserve [on-or-off-track exhibit space](#) at CP Humboldt Yard contact RSI at 202-347-4664 or REMSA at 703-992-6111.

40. How can I reserve a Hospitality Suite for my company? Hospitality suites are reserved for member companies only and must be approved through host organizations.

- For Railway Supply Institute hotel hospitality suites (Hyatt Regency Minneapolis or the Millennium Hotel), contact RSI at 202-347-4664.
- For AREMA/REMSA Hospitality Suites (in the joint AREMA/REMSA Headquarters hotel), please contact Lisa Hall at 301.459.3200.

41. Whom do I contact if I have additional questions? Any of the sponsoring organizations listed below can assist you with questions. If you have questions about the registration process contact AREMA.

- AREMA: +1.301.459.3200
- REMSA: +1.703.992.6111
- RSI / CMA: +1.202.347.4664
- RSSI: +1.502.327.7774

[View Railway Interchange 2011 Website](#)