



Changes to the Gauge '3' Standard

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First Published in

Newsletter 81

June 2010

The Committee recently asked Ken Cottle to review the Society's existing Gauge '3' Track Standards. The main focus was on the "Minimum Wheel Width" which was previously recommended to be 8mm. However, this is over scale and many Members now routinely use Slaters wheels which are narrower. Ken has recommended that the minimum wheel width can be reduced to 6.8mm. This should not cause problems with existing stock (or track) as the impact should be simply cosmetic.

It occurred to me that we should also take this opportunity review the recommended 'Buffer' dimensions. The 'Standards' gave the "lateral distance between buffer centres" as 75mm and the "buffer height above rail level" as 45mm. Assuming the 1923 RCH standard to be the nearest thing to a 'normal practice' in this area, the prototypical measurements are 41.25" (buffer height) and 68" (buffer width). At 13.5mm to the foot, this should give 46.406mm & 76.5mm respectively. The original 45mm & 75mm dimensions appear to be a half-way house between the earlier 1/2" and 17/32nd scales.

After consulting Ken about these dimensions, he agreed that we should amend the recommended buffer 'height' to 46.4mm and buffer 'centres' to 76.5mm. These are small changes but more accurate for future use. Again, we do not think that there should be any issues with existing stock.

A revised 'S01 G3 Track Standards' (01/05/2010) is downloadable from the website in PDF format (or from the Editor if a SAE with 2nd class stamp is supplied).