



[Print Page](#)

Update: New Haven Line M8 Rail Cars
August 28, 2014



This status report will be updated periodically to provide the most current information on the M8 rail car procurement.

Current Status of the M8s

Delivered to New Haven Yard	Under Inspection and Testing by Kawasaki Rail Car, Inc.	Conditionally Accepted by Metro-North Railroad for Service	Information Provided
380 (total)	12	368	8/28/14
376 (total)	12	364	8/1/14
372 (total)	16	356	6/26/14
366 (total)	18	348	5/30/14
360 (total)	30	340	4/30/14
336 (total)	30	306	3/3/14
318 (total)	18	300	1/31/14
312 (total)	20	292	12/30/13
294 (total)	16	278	11/21/13
276 (total)	20	256	9/19/13
252 (total)	10	242	7/24/13

216 (total)	22	194	4/7/13
186 (total)	20	166	1/7/13
156 (total)	18	138	10/15/12
128 (total)	6	122	7/31/12
124 (total)	12	112	7/2/12
108 (total)	8	100	5/8/12
100 (total)	14	86	4/2/12
78 (total)	0	78	2/6/12
74 (total)	10	64	1/11/12
68 (total)	8	60	12/22/11
68 (total)	12	56	12/19/11
68 (total)	14	54	12/15/11
64 (total)	16	48	12/9/11
56 (total)	12	44 (includes 2 undergoing modifications)	11/28/11
42 (total)	10	36 (includes 4 undergoing modifications)	10/20/11
38 (total)	8	30	9/20/11
34 (total)	4	30	8/1/11
34 (total)	8	26	6/14/11
32 (total)	12	20	6/6/11
28 (total)	8	20	5/16/11

State of Connecticut & MTA Metro-North Railroad Purchased 25 M8 Single Rail Cars

In 2011, twenty-five new single M8 rail cars were added to the 380 M8 rail cars already on order from Kawasaki Rail Car Inc. for use on the New Haven Line. The new cars will be "singles," as opposed to the "married pairs" now being delivered. This will provide the additional advantage of being able to add one car, instead of two, on trains and is a very efficient way to add capacity in order to meet ridership growth.

The roll out of the new M8s on the New Haven Line (NHL) continues. Of the 380 original order, the first 38 were built in Kobe, Japan, and the remaining 342 are being built at Kawasaki's plant in Lincoln, Nebraska.

More M8s In Service (effective May 11, 2014)

We are operating more M8s than old equipment (M2/M4/M6) on the New Haven Line. Customers have the opportunity to ride one or more of the 1190 M8 weekly trains (195 on Mondays-Friday, 109 on Saturdays and 107 on Sundays).

The new M8 trains represent 87% of total weekday New Haven Main Line service (Monday-Friday), 92% of Saturday service and 90% of Sunday service.

These trains operate during peak and off-peak service between New Haven, Stamford and Grand Central Terminal.

The new cars have received overwhelmingly positive customer feedback.

M8 Bike Rack Prototype

The Connecticut Department of Transportation and MTA Metro-North Railroad are conducting an extended test of a prototype bike mount system specifically designed and manufactured for the M-8 fleet. Production of a prototype was completed, and installation is now underway on a limited number of M8 cars. A total of 50 M-8 cars will be fitted with a pair of bicycle racks in order to gain additional feedback from customers before a decision is made on whether to expand installation of these racks to the remainder of the M-8 fleet.

Production Progress

Two single M8 cars have been delivered by Kawasaki to New Haven and are being outfitted for testing with the “married pairs” of M8s. The remaining 23 single cars are slated for delivery between September and the end of November. This delivery is contingent on successful testing of the initial two cars over the next several weeks. Kawasaki continues to prepare M8 cars for the testing phase before being accepted for regularly scheduled train service.

(Updates are reflected in bold.)