

DSDX 40' Insulated Boxcar for Beer Service



Built in 1951 by Milwaukee Road's Milwaukee Shops, these distinctive cars with small side panels and multiple rivet rows stand out in a crowd. 600 of these cars were built with 4' swinging plug doors, bright orange paint and Milwaukee Road heralds for service transporting beer nationwide from the large Schlitz brewery in Milwaukee. The unusual extended sills were a trait of cars built for Schlitz service as they were used as a push point for moving the cars around the loading area with a tractor.

History timeline;

DSDX 4000-4599

- Built 1951 Milwaukee Shops

- Welded Underframe and welded diagonal panel roof

- 4' swinging plug doors

DSDX 5000-5599

- Renumbered when rebuilt with larger doors

 - 5000-5199 rebuilt in 1960-61 with 8'2" plug doors

 - 5200-5399 rebuilt in 1962 with 8'2" plug doors having double latch bars

5400-5599 rebuilt with 10' plug doors

Rebuilding with larger doors included strengthening the side sill. The cars also received Universal rotary slack adjusters, as shown on the pre-production sample model, in the mid-60s.

URTX upgrades/renumbering

Series of cars were transferred to URTX ownership in 1966 and the cars were gradually re-stenciled with URTX reporting marks and renumbered;

URTX 10100-10296 ex DSDX 5000-5199

URTX 10297-10492 ex DSDX 5200-5399 (8'2" doors with double latch bars)

URTX 10501-10676 ex DSDX 5400-5599 (10' doors)

Some cars were repainted in either solid yellow or solid orange while most retained their paint from rebuilding with the extra large MILW herald. A few rebuilds received the "standard" size MILW herald as they were delivered. Refer to photos for specific cars/paint.

After the transfer to URTX the cars were not exclusive to Schlitz service as there are photos of them at the Pabst loading area/ team tracks on the Beer Line.

MILW ownership

Car series was transferred to Milwaukee Road ownership in 1975. They kept their URTX numbers and were re-stenciled with MILW reporting marks. None were fully repainted that I am aware of.

The cars ran into the late 70s/early 80s in service outside their original design, including hauling bagged sand and possibly canned goods.