29. Let m_F be the mass of the freight car and v_F be its initial velocity. Let m_C be the mass of the caboose and v be the common final velocity of the two when they are coupled. Conservation of the total momentum of the two-car system leads to $m_F v_F = (m_F + m_C)v$, so $v = v_F m_F / (m_F + m_C)$. The initial kinetic energy of the system is

$$K_i = \frac{1}{2} m_F v_F^2$$

and the final kinetic energy is

$$K_f = \frac{1}{2}(m_F + m_C)v^2 = \frac{1}{2}(m_F + m_C)\frac{m_F^2 v_F^2}{(m_F + m_C)^2} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{m_F^2 v_F^2}{(m_F + m_C)}.$$

Since 27% of the original kinetic energy is lost, we have $K_f = 0.73 K_i$. Thus,

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{m_F^2 v_F^2}{(m_F + m_C)} = (0.73)\left(\frac{1}{2} m_F v_F^2\right).$$

Simplifying, we obtain $m_F / (m_F + m_C) = 0.73$, which we use in solving for the mass of the caboose:

$$m_C = \frac{0.27}{0.73} m_F = 0.37\, m_F = (0.37)\left(3.18 \times 10^4\, \text{kg}\right) = 1.18 \times 10^4\, \text{kg} \ .$$