Commission d’experts techniques
Fachausschuss für technische Fragen
Committee of Technical Experts

TECH-20025

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TO THE MEMBER STATES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF OTIF AND TO REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE ACCEDED TO COTIF

13th Session of the Committee of Technical Experts
Bern, 16 - 17 June 2020

40th Session of the Working Group Technology
Bern, 17 - 18 June 2020

Important information on changes to the meetings as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic
With circular letters TECH-20001 of 27 January 2020, TECH-20024 of 3 April 2020 and TECH-20017 of 16 April 2020, the Secretary General sent invitations for the 13th session of the Committee of Technical Experts on 16-17 June 2020 and for the 40th session of the Working Group Technology on 17-18 June. Both meetings were scheduled to take place in Bern.

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, many OTIF Member States are facing an exceptional situation. On 25 March 2020, the host nation authority, the Swiss Federal Council, banned entry into Switzerland for all non-nationals, with only a few exceptions.

Moreover, some of OTIF’s Member States are restricting travel abroad or are requiring quarantine following travel abroad. There is also uncertainty concerning the availability of international transport, as most airline companies have stopped flying some routes until further notice.

For these reasons the Secretariat has taken the following decisions:

1. The 13th session of the Committee of Technical Experts on 16-17 June 2020 is cancelled and will be rescheduled for June 2021.

2. The 40th session of the Working Group Technology (WG TECH) will be held remotely via an internet application on 17 and 18 June, from 9:30-12:30 Central European Summer Time on both days.

3. Further information on how delegates can participate in the remote meeting will be provided no later than one week before the scheduled meeting. Delegates are required to register in advance in order for the Secretariat to provide technical access to the remote meeting. Delegates are requested to register using the digital registration form on OTIF’s website (www.otif.org) under:

   Events > Registration form

4. An additional agenda item will be proposed for the 40th WG TECH meeting. It concerns a final review of the proposals originally intended for decision at the 13th session of the Committee of Technical Experts (see point 1), which are now to be submitted for the written procedure. The proposals concerned are those under item 6 of the provisional agenda sent out with circular TECH-20001 of 27 January 2020. Article 21 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts provides for this possibility. Therefore, it is important that as many of the Member States as possible participate. A revised provisional agenda is annexed to this circular.

The proposals are already available on OTIF’s website under:

Activities > Technical Interoperability > Committee of Technical Experts > Working Documents > 2020
5. Provided that the final review under point 4 has a favourable outcome for a particular proposal, the Secretary General will ask the Chair of the previous session of the Committee (Switzerland) to initiate a vote by written procedure on that proposal.

6. For practical reasons and in view of the difficulties in electing a Chair during a remote meeting, as an exception the 40th WG TECH meeting will be chaired by the OTIF Secretariat.

The OTIF Secretariat thanks you for your understanding and cooperation in these challenging times.

Yours faithfully,

(Wolfgang Küpper)
Secretary General
Annex: Provisional agenda

17 June 2020, 9:30-12:30 (CEST)

1. Approval of the agenda

2. Information from the OTIF Secretariat

3. Approval of the minutes of the 39th session of WG TECH

4. Proposals for decisions by written procedure:
   a. Modification of the UTP concerning rolling stock noise
   b. Modification of the UTP concerning freight wagons
   c. Modification of the UTP concerning vehicle marking
   d. Full revision of the rules for certification and auditing of entities in charge of maintenance (ECM Regulation)
   e. Full revision of the specifications concerning vehicle registers

5. For discussion:
   a. TAF – amending the process of regularly updating Annex 1 to UTP TAF
   b. Alignment of UTP WAG with EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/387
   c. Work programme of the Committee

18 June 2020, 9:30-12:30 (CEST)

6. Review of draft proposals for modifications:
   a. Draft UTP concerning infrastructure
   b. Draft UTP concerning train composition and route compatibility checks
   c. Draft revised UTP LOC&PAS
   d. Draft revised UTP PRM

7. Developments in EU regulations that are of relevance to COTIF (presented by ERA and DG MOVE)

8. Any other business

9. Next sessions

Postponed to WG TECH 41

10. Cross reference table of EU and OTIF terminology

11. EU-OTIF equivalence table