



Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires  
Zwischenstaatliche Organisation für den internationalen Eisenbahnverkehr  
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**Groupe de travail TECH**

**Arbeitsgruppe TECH**

**Working Group TECH**

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**TAF – PROCESS TO ENSURE CONTINUED EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN  
THE UTP AND TSI**

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Draft proposal

## 1. INTRODUCTION

UTP TAF rules have been developed in accordance with the provisions of APTU, in particular Article 8, in the version as amended by the OTIF Revision Committee in 2009 and 2014, which entered into force on 1 July 2015.

The UTP is equivalent to the TAF TSI in the European Union (EU). Furthermore, the UTP TAF makes direct reference to technical documents published on the website of the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA). These technical documents contain detailed IT specifications, such as interface and process descriptions, definitions of databases for master data and code lists. These documents are updated frequently through a Change Control Management process (CCM) in order to take into account business needs and technological progress and to correct errors.

While in the European Union (EU) the legal framework requires direct application of TAF TSI and CCM changes to the TAF TSI technical documents after they are published on the ERA website, these changes do not have direct legal effect in COTIF. It is therefore important to ensure continued equivalence between the UTP and TSI provisions, including the technical documents they refer to, so that all OTIF Contracting States, irrespective of whether they are Member States of the EU or not, apply the same provisions.

A proposal on establishing a formalised process for the approval of modifications related to the Technical Documents of TAF referred to in Appendix I and which do not affect the core text of the UTP was agreed at the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of WG TECH. The agreed process enabled timely communication on CCM changes and simultaneous application of COTIF and EU provisions.

Recent developments in the internal processes of the European Union with regard to the time the EU needs to review proposals with legal effect for the Committee of Technical Experts' meetings have led to changes in the deadlines for the publication of such proposals (from 2 months to 16 weeks). Consequently, the schedule of WG TECH meetings had to be adjusted and the previously agreed process does not fit into the new schedule. Therefore, the timeline of the previously agreed process needs to be adjusted.

## 2. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF PROPOSAL

As part of the TAF implementation process<sup>1</sup>, EU Member States and railway sector representatives may request changes to the technical documents of the TAF TSI. In accordance with chapter 7.2. Change Management in COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 2019/778, ERA gathers, stores and presents the change requests to the dedicated ERA working party, which evaluates them and subsequently prepares a proposal, accompanied by an economic evaluation, where appropriate. Change requests can be published twice a year.

UTP TAF provisions under 7.2.1 permit the following: **“the non-EU OTIF Contracting States that apply this UTP may be present or represented in the work of the European Union Agency for Railways’ Working Groups by entities that represent the interests of their rail sector, including the Change Control Board”**.

Although the UTP and TSI refer to the same Change Control Management (CCM) process by ERA, it should be noted that the change requests that are published on the ERA website are not automatically transferred into change requests for UTP TAF, Appendix I. To do so, and according to Art. 6 of the APTU provisions, only the Committee of Technical Experts can decide whether to adopt a UTP or a provision amending it. This means that the approval of modifications related to the technical documents of TAF can only be considered once a year each June. In accordance with the (new) Rules of Procedure

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<sup>1</sup>[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/778 of 16 May 2019 amending Regulation \(EU\) No 1305/2014 as regards Change Control Management](#)

of the Committee of Technical Experts such proposals must be published in 3 languages 16 weeks prior to the meeting. If the Committee of Technical Experts convenes in mid-June, this means publication is required by the end of February.

In order to reflect the decision-making process at OTIF and to enable all parties concerned to apply the rules correctly, a process to coordinate the TSI and UTP provisions is needed.

### 3. PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

The following proposal for a process based on an annual cycle has been developed, which takes into account the timelines and rolling plans for both the Change Request at ERA and decision-making within OTIF. It aims to facilitate the exchange of information between ERA and the OTIF Secretariat on change requests and to ensure that the provisions introduced into EU law apply in parallel with provisions under COTIF law.

- ERA submits a document describing the objective of the CCM Changes approved in the preceding year by the ERA Change control board. This can be done at the last WG TECH meeting before the next Committee of Technical Experts’ meeting. This WG TECH meeting usually takes place in November. In the event of delays to the publication of the CCM changes, these should be submitted no later than the first week of January to allow timely processing by the OTIF Secretariat (see diagram)
- On the basis of ERA’s document, the OTIF Secretariat drafts a proposal for decision of the Committee of Technical Expert in three languages, to be published 16 weeks before the CTE meeting.
- Once adopted by the Committee of Technical Experts in June, the Secretary General notifies the Contracting States of the changes as soon as possible.
- Changes would enter into force on 1 December if they are notified before 1 July and on 1 January the following year if they are notified before 1 August.

