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Groupe de travail TECH
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51ST SESSION

[Draft] Proposal for the revision of the Uniform Technical Prescription applicable to the subsystem “rolling stock – noise”

UTP Noise

Note: this is a draft working document issued for the 51st session of WG TECH. The definitive version will be issued as a working document for the 16th session of the Committee of Technical Experts (CTE) that will convene in Bern on 11-12 June 2024. Annexes 1 and 2 referred to in this document are not yet available. In the final document for the CTE, these annexes will be based on document TECH-23021.

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 20 § 1 b) of COTIF and Article 6 of the APTU Uniform Rules (Appendix F to COTIF), the Committee of Technical Experts is competent to take decisions about the adoption of a Uniform Technical Prescription (UTP) or a provision amending a UTP.

This proposal concerns the revision of the UTP applicable to the subsystem “rolling stock – noise” (UTP Noise) in the version of 1 April 2021.

The proposal has been developed on the basis of COTIF as last amended on 1 November 2023, in particular with regard to Article 8 of the APTU Uniform Rules.

2. CONTEXT AND SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL

The aim of this proposal to revise the UTP Noise is to keep it aligned with legal developments in the European Union and to update the specific cases and particular implementing rules.

The proposed modifications include:

- The addition of a method to assess the conformity of friction elements for wheel tread brakes (i.e. brake blocks) as interoperability constituents;
- Alignment with the latest editorial practices for UTPs;
- Updates of the references to EU legislation;
- The addition of references to the UTP TCRC on train compatibility and route compatibility checks;
- Update of the implementation rules, in particular by removing validity deadlines (phases A and B) for vehicles and types of vehicles that comply with previous versions of the UTP;
- Addition of specific cases and particular implementing rules for Norway and for the Channel Tunnel.

The proposed modifications are shown for information in Annex I in track-changes mode.

The proposal for the revised version of UTP Noise is in Annex 2. The version of 1 April 2021 should be repealed and replaced by the revised version.

3. PREPARATORY WORK

The proposed revised version was prepared by the OTIF Secretariat in coordination with WG TECH. The first draft version was reviewed by WG TECH at its 49th session (Bern, 15 June 2023). Updated drafts were subsequently reviewed at the 50th session of WG TECH (Gümligen, 7-8 September 2023) and at the 51st session of WG TECH (London, 14-15 November 2023).

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE AMENDMENTS

In order to ensure the continued mutual acceptance in international traffic of vehicles authorised in accordance with European Union law and of vehicles admitted to international operation in accordance with COTIF, it is essential that the European Union TSIs and COTIF UTPs remain aligned.

The UTP Noise of 1 April 2021 is equivalent to the European Union's technical specification for interoperability (TSI) set out in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1304/2014 as last amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/774 of 16 May 2019.

The TSI was most recently amended again by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1694 of 10 August 2023. The aim of the UTP modifications is to maintain equivalence in the meaning of Article 13 § 4 letter b) of the APTU Uniform Rules between the UTP and the TSI, so that the mechanisms of reciprocity as set out in Article 3a of the ATMF Uniform Rules continue to function.

In addition, specific cases and particular implementing rules should be updated with provisions for Norway and for the Channel Tunnel.

PROPOSALS FOR DECISION

- In accordance with Article 20 § 1 and Article 35 of COTIF and Article 6 § 1 of the APTU UR, the Committee of Technical Experts adopts a revised version of the Uniform Technical Prescription applicable to the subsystem “rolling stock – noise” (UTP Noise) as set out in Annex 2 to document TECH-24xxx of xxx [, as modified at the session]. The revised UTP Noise shall repeal and replace the UTP Noise of 1 April 2021, from the moment of entry into force of the revised version.
- The Committee of Technical Experts instructs the Secretary General to publish the new version of the UTP Noise on OTIF's website, although the repealed version should also remain available online for future reference.