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[Draft] Proposal for the revision of the Uniform Technical Prescription applicable to train composition and route compatibility checks

UTP TCRC

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-23022.

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 train composition and route compatibility checks (UTP TCRC) of 1 January 2022.

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 TCRC is to keep it aligned with legal developments in the European Union.

The proposed modifications include:

- Added definitions and requirements related to combined transport;
- Updated requirements related to checks for compatibility between vehicles and train detection systems;
- Editorial improvements;
- Updated references to EU rules.

The proposed modifications are shown for information in Annex I.

The proposal for the revised version of UTP TCRC is in Annex 2. The version of 1 January 2022 should be repealed and replaced by the revised version.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

The parameters in the UTP TCRC are necessary for the harmonised implementation and correct application of the ATMF Uniform Rules (Appendix F to COTIF), in particular Article 6 § 2 and Article 15a, which lay down responsibilities for railway undertakings when using vehicles in international traffic.

The UTP TCRC covers two different subjects:

- Train composition, which is the process in which, based on the technical file of each vehicle, the railway undertaking prepares the train for operation and ensures that all vehicles in the train and the train as a whole meet the essential requirements, and
- Route compatibility checks, in which, based on route information provided by the infrastructure manager, the railway undertaking ascertains that the train is compatible with the route on which it intends to run the train.

The UTP TCRC of 1 January 2022 is based on European Union provisions set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2019/773 of 16 May 2019 (OPE TSI) and in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/777 of 16 May 2019 on the common specifications for the register of railway infrastructure (RINF).

Although the main substance in the UTP TCRC is taken over from the OPE TSI, not all matters dealt with by the OPE TSI have been taken over, as some matters are not relevant in the scope of the ATMF Uniform Rules. The EU's RINF specifications contain a list of parameters that are relevant in terms of compatibility between infrastructure and vehicles and trains. These parameters have been taken over in the UTP TCRC.

The OPE TSI is amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1693 of 10 August 2023 and the RINF specifications were amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1693 of 10 August 2023.

The aim of the proposed modifications is to maintain equivalence in the meaning of Article 13 § 4 letter b) and as set out in chapter 0 of the UTP TCRC between the UTP and the EU provisions referred to. This equivalence facilitates international traffic in the scope of the ATMF Uniform Rules by harmonising several key responsibilities of railway undertakings and infrastructure managers.

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 train composition and route compatibility checks (UTP TCRC) as set out in Annex 2 to document TECH-24xxx of xxx [, as modified at the session]. The revised UTP TCRC shall repeal and replace the UTP TCRC of 1 January 2022, 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 TCRC on OTIF's website, although the repealed version should also remain available online for future reference.