



Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires  
Zwischenstaatliche Organisation für den internationalen Eisenbahnverkehr  
Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

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

**TECH-17048  
30/11/2017**

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**TO THE MEMBER STATES OF OTIF AND TO THE REGIONAL  
ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE ACCEDED TO COTIF**

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### **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

of the amendments notified in circular TECH -17024 of 26 June 2017 by the Committee of Technical Experts in accordance with Appendix F (APTU) of the Convention

I am pleased to be able to inform the Member States that the texts adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee of Technical Experts on 13 and 14 June 2017 listed in the following table will enter into force on 1 December 2017.

No objections were lodged by the deadline prescribed in Article 35 of the Convention and in the notification circular.

<i>Acronym</i>	<i>Full title</i>	<i>In force</i>
<b>UTP TAF</b>	Uniform Technical Prescriptions <b>Telematics Applications for Freight Services</b>	<b>01.12.2017</b>
<b>UTP GEN-A</b>	Uniform Technical Prescriptions – General Provisions <b>Essential Requirements</b>	<b>01.12.2017</b>
<b>UTP GEN-B</b>	Uniform Technical Prescriptions – General Provisions <b>Subsystems</b>	<b>01.12.2017</b>
<b>UTP GEN-C</b>	Uniform Technical Prescriptions – General Provisions <b>Technical File</b>	<b>01.12.2017</b>

In accordance with Article 8 § 1 APTU, the UTP will be published on OTIF's website under:

*Reference texts > Technical Interoperability > Prescriptions and Other Rules*

Addressees of the circular letter who wish to receive the documents by email or post are invited to inform the Secretariat of their requirements.

### **Brief explanation of the documents that are entering into force**

The **UTP TAF** contain requirements for the international exchange of information for international freight services. It lays down basic and additional requirements with regard to the communication process between railway undertakings and infrastructure managers, databases intended to be used to track trains and wagon movements and information to be delivered to freight customers.

The UTP TAF refers to the technical appendices that are published and regularly updated on the website of the European Union Agency for Railways, including the data and message model in XML files. This way, the legal provisions will become embedded in COTIF, but the IT provisions will be managed by ERA. This ensures that the IT provisions are always identical between the European Union's TAF TSI and the UTP TAF. The IT provisions will be agreed with the non-EU Member States of OTIF so that they can be involved in developing them.

There is no deadline for non-EU Member States to complete implementation of the UTP TAF. Nevertheless, Contracting States will have to ensure that any IT investments and developments in the scope of the UTP TAF comply with the UTP, so as to facilitate international rail traffic.

These UTP are new and will be published on OTIF's website.

The **UTP GEN-A**, **UTP GEN-B** and **UTP GEN-C** have been amended to ensure continued equivalence with the provisions applicable in the European Union. The existing versions of these three UTP have been harmonised with the provisions of European Union Directive 2008/57/EC, which has been replaced by European Union Directive (EU) 2016/797.

In addition to the purely editorial modifications, the essential requirements set out in UTP GEN-A will be made clearer in terms of passenger information and safety of passengers when boarding and alighting from trains. With regard to the definition of subsystems set out in UTP GEN-B, the reference to '*other railway material*' has been deleted, as such references have also been deleted from APTU and ATMF. In UTP GEN-C the required content of the technical file will be defined more precisely.

The new versions of these three UTP will be published on OTIF's website. They replace the current versions, although the transitional provisions should be noted. For these reasons the current versions of these three UTP will still be publicly available on the website.

Member States which have not yet ratified COTIF 1999 or which have made a declaration in accordance with Article 42 of the Convention not to apply Appendix F (APTU) and/or Appendix G (ATMF) of COTIF 1999 are not affected by the entry into force of these texts until they ratify COTIF 1999 or withdraw their declarations.

From the date on which a Member State becomes a Contracting State to COTIF 1999 (i.e. from the date on which its ratification of COTIF 1999 enters into force or on which its declaration according to Article 42 of the Convention is withdrawn), it must comply with the above-mentioned provisions.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'F' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

(François Davenne)  
Secretary General

The following organisations and associations have received a copy of this circular:

- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)
- International Union of Railways (UIC)
- International Rail Transport Committee (CIT)
- International Union of Wagon Keepers (UIP)
- Organisation for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD)
- Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER)
- European Rail Freight Association (ERFA)
- European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM)
- Union of European Rail Industries (UNIFE)
- International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
- International Union of Combined Road-Rail Transport Companies (UIRR)
- European Committee for Standardization (CEN)
- International Association of Private Sidings Users (IVA)
- Association of Notified Bodies (NB-Rail Association)