



**Making multimodal transport subject to COTIF railway law –
Entering maritime or inland waterway routes in the CIV and CIM lists of maritime and inland
waterway services**

Why enter new shipping lines?

If the OTIF Member States concerned enter shipping lines in the lists of maritime and inland waterway services provided for under [Article 24 of COTIF](#), this makes it possible for railway undertakings and shipping companies that work together with the rail sector to perform multimodal rail-sea transport under a single legal regime, i.e. the CIV or CIM UR, thus providing rail transport customers with a single contract based on a single transport document for multimodal rail-sea transport. This avoids having to change legal regimes, from railway law to maritime law, and *vice versa*, as well as various problems that can arise when having to change from one legal regime to the other (costs, lack of clarity in terms of liability, etc.).

What is the procedure? What has to be considered?

A Member State notifies the Secretary General of OTIF, in agreement with the other Member State concerned by the service.

Maritime routes linking two Member States of COTIF can only be entered in the list of lines with the agreement of both States. In other words, both States must wish to subject rail transport including carriage by sea to the CIM or CIV regime. The agreement of both States is a *conditio sine qua non* for any registration of a ferry or other maritime service. For a Member State that is interested in registering a line, Article 24 of COTIF does not prescribe the form in which it has to document the agreement of the other State. In the experience of OTIF's Secretary General as the Depositary, a reference to an agreement concluded with the other Member State is considered sufficient.

Obligatory information to be provided for an entry

- Name and address of the shipping company operating the service
- End points of the route (ports/embarkation points)
- Length of route in kilometres

If so wished and only for CIM maritime services (not for inland waterways):

- Information on the particular liability regime in accordance with Article 38 CIM. Both Member States concerned must also agree on this notification.