

OTIF



**ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES**

**ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR INTER-
NATIONAL CARRIAGE BY RAIL**

	Version: 01	Ref.: A 95-00/1.2014	Original: EN	Date: 26.03.2014
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Agenda item 9 (for information)

7th Session of the Committee of Technical Experts, Bern, 4-5 June 2014

Joint OTIF-EU registers for VKM and ECM

1. Introduction

At its 6th session (Geneva, 12-13.6.2013), the Committee of Technical Experts (CTE) mandated the OTIF Secretariat to develop joint OTIF/ERA registers for VKM and ECM. This document informs the CTE about how this task has been carried out.

2. Legal basis

Article 13 § 5 of Appendix G to the Convention stipulates that: *“When applying this Article, the Committee of Technical Experts shall consider registers set up by Contracting States and regional organisations in such a way so as to reduce undue burden on the involved parties such as regional organisations, Contracting States, competent authorities and industry.”*

3. Agreement between ERA and OTIF

In accordance with the Administrative Arrangements between OTIF, DG MOVE¹ and ERA², about which the Member States of OTIF were informed in circular letter A 57-21/501.2013 of 25.11.2013, ERA and OTIF agreed on 19 December 2013 to establish joint OTIF/ERA registers for VKM and ECM, to be hosted on the ERA website³. The parties agreed the objective of having the registers operational by 1 April 2014.

4. Implementation

a. VKM register

Having a complete (joint) database in one place (ERA) containing VKM codes assigned to keepers in EU OTIF Member States, non-EU OTIF Member States, OSJD non OTIF Member States and to keepers in some important States in the Eurasian region provides advantages for the sector. In order to obtain an overview of all VKM codes, only one register hosted by ERA will need to be consulted.

The OTIF procedure for submitting an application for a new VKM code or to change or revoke it remains the same.

¹ European Commission's Directorate-General for mobility and transport

² The European Railway Agency

³ https://eradis.era.europa.eu/safety_docs/ecm/certificates.aspx

This means that OTIF will continue to process requests from keepers with their registered place of business in:

- a) an OTIF Member State which is not also a Member of the European Union or the European Economic Area⁴,
- b) a State which is a Member of OSJD but not a Member of OTIF,
- c) other States in the Eurasian area connected to the international rail network.

OTIF and ERA will prepare updated versions of the existing Rules for registration of a Vehicle Keeper Marking Code (VKM)⁵. The document will be renamed “Application guide for Vehicle Keeper Marking Code (VKM) register” and will be published on both the OTIF and the ERA websites.

The final publication of the VKM register on the OTIF website was the 48th issue on 5 March 2014. Subsequent issues will only be published on the ERA website. For the convenience of users, the OTIF website will provide a hyperlink to the ERA website.

The link from the OSJD website to the VKM register now hosted on the ERA website will be provided.

b. ECM register

Having a complete (joint) database for ECM certification bodies, ECM certificates and maintenance function certificates for entities situated in EU and in non-EU OTIF Contracting States in one place (ERA) offers advantages for the sector. In order to obtain an overview of all Certification bodies and certificates, only one database hosted by ERA will need to be consulted.

The duties of OTIF’s Secretary General according to Article 10.4 of the OTIF regulation on the Certification and Auditing of Entities in Charge of Maintenance (ECM), document A 94-30/1.2012 dated 01.05.2012, will be complied with by means of the publicly accessible ERADIS database hosted by ERA.

The non-EU OTIF Contracting States’ obligations according to Articles 10.1 and 10.2 of the OTIF regulation on the Certification and Auditing of Entities in Charge of Maintenance (ECM), document A 94-30/1.2012 dated 01.05.2012, will not change; notifications must still be sent to the Secretary General of OTIF.

The obligations of certification bodies with their place of business in non-EU OTIF Contracting States according to Article 10.3 of the OTIF regulation on the Certification and Auditing of Entities in Charge of Maintenance (ECM), document A 94-30/1.2012 dated 01.05.2012, will not change. However, there will be changes to the implementation procedure; certification bodies will be responsible for making new entries directly in the ERADIS database⁶ for certificates that have been issued, for amendments and for the renewal or revocation of certificates that have been issued. Instructions on how to do this will be sent to certification bodies when they notify the Secretary General in accordance with Article 10.3. In addition, the Secretary General of OTIF has separately informed certification bodies with their place of business in non-EU OTIF Contracting States already notified to the Secretary General about this change of procedure.

By the end of March 2014, the OTIF Secretariat and ERA will have transferred to ERADIS all valid data contained in the OTIF ECM registers.

⁴ The EU process for VKM registration remains unaffected by the merging of the OTIF and EU VKM registers

⁵ Document with OTIF reference A 95-00/1.2009 and ERA reference IU VKM 061128, dated 1 April 2009.

⁶ European Railway Agency Database of Interoperability and Safety, on ERA’s website