Joint OTIF/ERA press release

Joint OTIF/ERA ECM and VKM registers hosted by ERA

At its 6th session (Geneva, 12-13.6.2013), OTIF's Committee of Technical Experts mandated the development of joint OTIF[1]/ERA[2] VKM[3] and ECM[4] registers to be hosted on the website of ERA.

In December 2013 OTIF and ERA agreed on the objective of having joint registers operational by 1 April 2014. Since then, the staff of ERA and the OTIF secretariat have worked in close cooperation to prepare the joint registers. Both joint registers went live on 1 April 2014, as planned.

ECM registers

European Commission Regulation (EU) No 445/2011 of 10 May 2011 on a system of certification of entities in charge of maintenance for freight wagons and its fully equivalent OTIF ATMF Annex A of 1 May 2012 require information concerning ECMs to be made publicly available.

Previously, the two Organisations have separately discharged their responsibility to publish ECM information on their respective websites. Having a joint ERA/OTIF database for Entities in Charge of Maintenance (ECM) and ECM certification bodies offers advantages for the sector; only one database hosted by ERA needs to be consulted to obtain a full overview.

The procedures for notification and updating the ECM register in the EU have not changed.

The obligations of the non-EU OTIF Contracting States have not changed, meaning that the Secretariat of OTIF will remain the contact point for non-EU Contracting States.

ECM certification bodies with their place of business in non-EU OTIF Contracting States are now able to make entries directly in the ERADIS database for certificates that they have issued.

The joint ECM register is accessible on the ERA website. For the convenience of users, the OTIF website provides a hyperlink to the ECM register.

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

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[1]OTIF: Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires (Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail).

[2] ERA: European Railway Agency

[3] VKM: Vehicle keeper marking

[4] ECM: Entity in charge of maintenance

VKM register

The EU NVR Specification[5] and its OTIF equivalent, Appendix PP to UTP WAG, require the publication of a VKM register.

Previously, the two Organisations have separately discharged their responsibility to publish a VKM register on their respective websites. A joint register offers administrate advantages to both ERA and OTIF, without having negative effects for the sector.

The joint ERA/OTIF VKM database contains VKM codes assigned to keepers in EU OTIF Member States, non-EU OTIF Member States, OSJD non OTIF Member States and some important States in the Eurasian region. The joint OTIF/ERA VKM register is published in four languages (English, French and German, which are OTIF's working languages, and Russian for cooperation with OSJD).

The OTIF procedure for submitting an application for a new VKM code or to change or revoke it remains the same, meaning that the OTIF Secretariat remains the contact point and will forward applications to ERA.

Future issues of the VKM register will only be published on the ERA website. For the convenience of users, the OTIF website provides a hyperlink to the VKM register.

http://www.era.europa.eu/Document-Register/Pages/list-VKM.aspx

Contact points

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[5] Decision 2007/756 as amended by Decision 2012/757/EU