



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**

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**TAF – PROCESS TO ENSURE CONTINUED EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN  
THE UTP AND TSI**

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Draft proposal

## 1. INTRODUCTION

UTP TAF rules have been developed in accordance with the provisions of APTU, in particular Article 8, in the version as amended by the OTIF Revision Committee in 2009 and 2014, which entered into force on 1 July 2015.

The UTP is equivalent to the TAF TSI in the European Union (EU). Furthermore, the UTP TAF makes direct reference to technical documents published on the website of the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA). These technical documents contain detailed IT specifications, such as interface and process descriptions, definitions of databases for master data and code lists. These documents are updated frequently in order to take into account business needs and technological progress and to correct errors.

While EU Member States can implement TAF TSI and CCM changes after they are published in the EU Official Journal, or published on the ERA website, it is essential that non-EU OTIF Contracting States that apply the UTP TAF are able to monitor and apply these changes as well, within the scope of COTIF. It is also important to ensure continued equivalence between the UTP and TSI provisions, including the technical documents they refer to.

This proposal therefore focuses on establishing a formalised process for the approval of modifications related to the Technical Documents of TAF referred to in Appendix I and which do not affect the core text of the UTP. The process should be simple and should ensure that there is timely communication on CCM changes and simultaneous application of COTIF and EU provisions.

## 2. BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF PROPOSAL

As part of the TAF implementation process<sup>1</sup> EU Member States and railway sector representatives may request changes to the technical documents of the TAF TSI. As per chapter 7.2. Change Management in COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 1305/2014, ERA gathers, stores and presents the change requests to the dedicated ERA working party, which will evaluate them and subsequently prepare a proposal, accompanied by an economic evaluation, where appropriate. Change requests are published twice a year in mid-June or mid-December. (See table below for the timeline on the TAF CCM Change Request process at ERA)

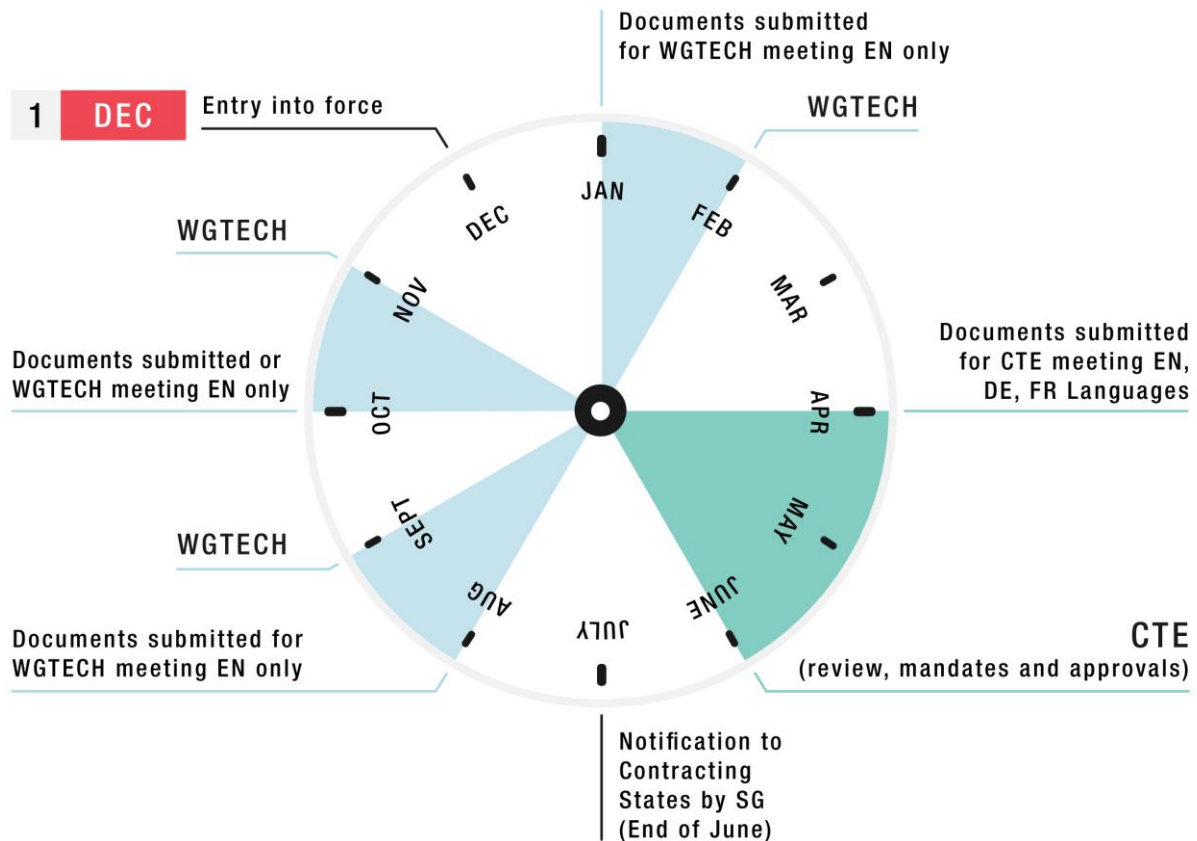
TIMELINE 1	TIMELINE 2	Action
Mid-April	Mid-October	Submission of Change Requests
Mid-May (2 weeks before)	Mid-November (2 weeks before)	CCM Working Party
(End of May) 2 weeks before	End of November (2 weeks before)	Approval at CCM Board
15 June	15 December	Publication of the approved Change Requests on the ERA Website

UTP TAF provisions under 7.2.1 permit the following: **“the non-EU OTIF Contracting States that apply this UTP may be present or represented in the work of the European Union Agency for Railways’ Working Groups by entities that represent the interests of their rail sector, including the Change Control Board”**.

<sup>1</sup> This process is still under revision by EC. ERA has submitted a recommendation for this changed procedure:

<http://website.era.eu.int/Document-Register/Pages/Agency's-Recommendation-008REC1102.aspx>

Although the UTP and TSI refer to the same Change Control Management (CCM) process by ERA, it should be noted that the change requests that are published on the ERA website are not automatically transferred into change requests for UTP TAF, Appendix I. To do so, and according to Art.6 of the APTU provisions, only the Committee of Technical Experts can decide whether to adopt a UTP or a provision amending it. This means that the approval of modifications related to the technical documents of TAF can only be considered once a year each June, as shown in the diagram.



In order to reflect the decision-making process at OTIF and to enable all parties concerned to apply the rules correctly, a process to coordinate the TSI and UTP provisions is needed.

### 3. PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

The following proposal for a process based on an annual cycle has been developed, which takes into account the timelines and rolling plans for both the Change Request at ERA and decision-making within OTIF. It aims to facilitate the exchange of information between the ERA and the OTIF Secretariat on change requests and to ensure that the provisions introduced into EU law apply in parallel with provisions under COTIF law.

- At WG TECH each February, ERA submits a document describing the objective of the CCM Changes approved in the preceding year by the ERA Change control board.
- On the basis of ERA's document, the OTIF Secretariat drafts a CTE proposal for decision in three languages, to be published in April each year (no later than two months before the CTE meeting).

- Once adopted by CTE in June, the changes are notified to the Contracting States by the Secretary General before 1 July.
- The changes would enter into force on 1 December of the same year for non-EU OTIF Contracting States.