

Appendix G (ATMF) to the Convention

Text modifications

Article 1

Scope

These Uniform Rules lay down, for railway vehicles and other railway material, the procedure for the admission to circulation or use in international traffic.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of these Uniform Rules and their (future) Annex(es), the APTU Uniform Rules and their Annex(es) and the APTU Uniform Technical Prescriptions (UTP) the following definitions shall apply:

- a) "accident" means an unwanted or unintended sudden event or a specific chain of such events which have harmful consequences; accidents are divided into the following categories: collisions, derailments, level-crossing accidents, accidents to persons caused by rolling stock in motion, fires and others;
- b) "admission of a type of construction" means the right granted by which the competent authority authorises a type of construction of a railway vehicle, as a basis for the admission to operation for vehicles which correspond to that type of construction;
- c) "admission to operation" means the right granted by which the competent authority authorises each railway vehicle or other railway material to operate in international traffic;
- d) "Committee of Technical Experts" means the Committee provided for in Article 13 § 1, f) of the Convention;
- da) "contracting entity" means any entity, whether public or private, which orders the design and/or construction or the renewal or upgrading of a subsystem. This entity may be a railway undertaking, an infrastructure manager or a keeper, or the concession holder responsible for carrying out a project;
- e) "Contracting State" means a Member State of the Organisation which has not made a declaration in respect of these Uniform Rules in accordance with Article 42 § 1, first sentence of the Convention;
- f) "declaration" means the evidence of an assessment or an element of assessments carried out to confirm that a vehicle, a type of construction or an element of construction complies with the provisions of the APTU Uniform Rules and its UTP (including applicable specific cases and national requirements in force according to Article 12 of the APTU Uniform Rules);
- g) "element of construction" or "constituent" means any elementary component, group of components, complete or subassembly of equipment incorporated or

intended to be incorporated into a railway vehicle, other railway material or infrastructure; the concept of an "element of construction" covers both tangible objects and intangible objects such as software;

- h) "entity in charge of maintenance" (ECM) means the entity that is in charge of the maintenance of a vehicle, and is registered as such in the vehicle register according to Article 13; this definition also applies to other railway material;
- i) "essential requirements" means all the conditions set out in the APTU Uniform Rules which must be met by the rail system, the subsystems and the interoperability constituents, including interfaces;
- j) "incident" means any occurrence, other than accident or serious accident, associated with the operation of trains and affecting the safety of operation;
- k) "infrastructure manager" means an undertaking or an authority which manages railway infrastructure;
- l) "international traffic" means the circulation of railway vehicles on railway lines over the territory of at least two Contracting States;
- m) "investigation" means a process conducted for the purpose of accident and incident prevention which includes the gathering and analysis of information, the drawing of conclusions, including the determination of causes (actions, omissions, events or conditions, or a combination thereof, which led to the accident or incident) and, when appropriate, the making of safety recommendations;
- n) "keeper" means the person or entity that, being the owner of a vehicle or having the right to use it, exploits the vehicle as a means of transport and is registered as such in the vehicle register referred to in Article 13;
- o) "Maintenance File" means the document(s) that specify the inspections and maintenance tasks to be carried out on a (type of) vehicle or other railway material, which is set up according to the rules and specifications in the UTP including specific cases and notified national technical requirements in force, if any, according to Article 12 of the APTU Uniform Rules;
- p) "Maintenance Record File" means the documentation relating to an admitted vehicle or other railway material, which contains the record of its operating history and the inspections and maintenance operations that have been carried out on it;
- q) "network" means the lines, stations, terminals, and all kinds of fixed equipment needed to ensure safe and continuous operation of the rail system;
- r) "open points" means technical aspects relating to essential requirements which have not explicitly been covered in a UTP;
- s) "other railway material" means any movable railway material intended to be used in international traffic that is not a railway vehicle;

- t) "rail transport undertaking" means a private or public undertaking
 - which is authorised to carry persons or goods by rail and which ensures traction or
 - which only ensures traction;
- u) "railway infrastructure" (or just "infrastructure") means all the railway lines and fixed installations so far as these are necessary for the compatibility with and safe circulation of railway vehicles and other railway material admitted according to these Uniform Rules;
- v) "railway material" means railway vehicles, other railway material and railway infrastructures;
- w) "railway vehicle" means a vehicle suitable to circulate on its own wheels on railway lines with or without traction;
- x) "regional organisation" means an organisation as defined in Article 38 of the Convention within the exclusive competence that Contracting States have ceded to it;
- y) "renewal" means any major substitution work on a subsystem or part subsystem which does not change the overall performance of the subsystem;
- ya) "RID" means Appendix C to the Convention;
- z) "serious accident" means any train collision or derailment of trains, resulting in the death of at least one person or serious injuries to five or more persons or extensive damage to rolling stock, the railway infrastructure or the environment, and any other similar accident with an obvious impact on railway safety regulation or the management of safety; "extensive damage" means damage that can immediately be assessed by the investigating body to cost at least 1.8 million SDR in total;
- aa) "specific case" means any part of the rail system of the Contracting States which needs special provisions in the UTP, either temporary or definitive, because of geographical, topographical or urban environment constraints or those affecting compatibility with the existing system. This may include in particular railway lines and networks isolated from the rest of the network, the loading gauge, the track gauge or space between the tracks as well as vehicles and other railway material strictly intended for local, regional or historical use, and vehicles and other railway material originating from or destined for third countries;
- bb) "subsystems" means the result of the division of the rail system, as shown in the UTP; these subsystems, for which essential requirements must be laid down, may be structural or functional;
- cc) "technical admission" means the procedure carried out by the competent authority to authorise a railway vehicle or other railway material to operate in international traffic or to authorise the type of construction;

- dd) "technical certificate" means the official evidence of a successful technical admission in the form of a valid Design Type Certificate or a valid Certificate to Operation;
- ee) "Technical File" means the documentation relating to the vehicle or other railway material containing all its (the type's) technical characteristics, including a user manual and the characteristics necessary to identify the object(s) concerned;
- eea) "TSI" means Technical Specification for Interoperability adopted in accordance with Directives 96/48/EC, 2001/16/EC and 2008/57/EC by which each subsystem or part of a subsystem is covered in order to meet the essential requirements and ensure the interoperability of the rail system;
- ff) "type of construction" means the basic design characteristics of the railway vehicle or other railway material as covered by a single type examination certificate described in assessment module SB of the UTP;
- gg) "upgrading" means any major modification work on a subsystem or part subsystem which improves the overall performance of the subsystem.

Article 3

Admission to international traffic

- § 1 Each railway vehicle must, for circulation in international traffic, be admitted in accordance with these Uniform Rules.
- § 2 The technical admission shall have the aim of ascertaining whether the railway vehicles satisfy
 - a) the construction prescriptions contained in the UTP,
 - b) the construction and equipment prescriptions contained in RID,
 - c) the special conditions of an admission under Article 7a.
- § 3 §§ 1 and 2 as well as the following articles shall apply mutatis mutandis to the technical admission of other railway material and of elements of construction either of vehicles or of other railway material.

Article 3a

Interaction with other international agreements

- § 1 Railway vehicles and other railway material which have been placed in service according to applicable European Community (EC) and corresponding national legislation shall be deemed as admitted to operation by all Contracting States according to these Uniform Rules
 - a) in the case of full equivalence between the provisions in the applicable TSIs and the corresponding UTP and

- b) provided the set of applicable TSIs, against which the railway vehicle or other railway material was authorised, cover all aspects of the relevant subsystems that are part of the vehicle and
- c) provided these TSIs do not contain open points related to the technical compatibility with infrastructure and
- d) provided the vehicle or other railway material is not subject to a derogation.

If these conditions are not fulfilled, the vehicle or other railway material shall be subject to Article 6 § 4.

§ 2 Railway vehicles and other railway material which have been admitted to operation according to these Uniform Rules shall be deemed as placed in service in the Member States of the European Community and in the States which apply Community legislation as a result of international agreements with the European Community in the case of

- a) full equivalence between the provisions in the applicable UTP and the corresponding TSIs and
- b) provided the set of applicable UTP against which the railway vehicle or other railway material was authorised covers all aspects of the relevant subsystems that are part of the vehicle and
- c) provided these UTP do not contain open points related to the technical compatibility with infrastructure and
- d) provided the vehicle or other railway material is not subject to a derogation.

If these conditions are not fulfilled, the vehicle or other railway material shall be subject to authorisation according to the law applicable in the Member States of the European Community and in the States which apply Community legislation as a result of international agreements with the European Community.

§ 3 The admission to operation, the operation and the maintenance of railway vehicles and other railway material being used only in Member States of the European Community are regulated by the applicable Community and national legislation. This provision is also applicable to Contracting States which apply relevant European Community legislation as a result of international agreements with the European Community.

§ 4 §§ 1 to 2 apply mutatis mutandis to admissions / authorisations of vehicle types

§ 5 An entity in charge of maintenance (ECM) for a freight wagon, certified according to Article 15 § 2, shall be deemed as certified according to applicable European Community and corresponding national legislation and vice versa in the case of full equivalence between the certification system adopted under Article 14a (5) of the EC Railway Safety Directive 2004/49/EC and rules adopted by the Committee of Technical Experts according to Article 15 § 2.

Article 4 Procedure

- § 1 Technical admission of a vehicle shall be carried out
- a) either in a single stage by the granting of admission to operation to a given individual vehicle,
 - b) or in two successive stages, by the granting
 - of admission of a type of construction to a given type of construction,
 - subsequently an admission to operation to individual vehicles corresponding to this type of construction by a simplified procedure verifying that they are of this type.
- § 2 The assessments of the conformity of a vehicle or an element of construction with the provisions of the UTP on which the admission is based may be divided into assessment elements each evidenced by a declaration. The assessment elements and the format of the declaration shall be defined by the Committee of Technical Experts.
- § 3 The procedures for the technical admission of railway infrastructure are subject to the provisions in force in the Contracting State in question.

Article 5 Competent authority

- § 1 The technical admission shall be the task of the national or international authority competent in the matter in accordance with the laws and prescriptions in force in each Contracting State.
- § 2 The authorities referred to in § 1 may or, according to the provisions in force in their State, shall transfer to bodies with residence in their State recognised as suitable, competence to carry out assessments as a whole or partly, including the issuing of the corresponding declarations.

The transfer of competence to

- a) a rail transport undertaking,
- b) an infrastructure manager,
- c) a keeper,
- d) an entity in charge of maintenance (ECM),
- e) a designer or manufacturer of railway material participating directly or indirectly in the manufacture of railway material,

including subsidiaries of the foregoing entities shall be prohibited.

§ 3 In order to be recognised as suitable the bodies mentioned in § 2 must fulfil the following conditions:

- a) The body must be independent in its organisation, legal structure and decision making from any railway undertaking, infrastructure manager, applicant and procurement entity; its Director and the staff responsible for carrying out the assessments or issuing certificates and declarations may not become involved, either directly or as authorised representatives, in the design, manufacture, construction or maintenance of the constituents, vehicles or railway material or in the use thereof. This does not exclude the possibility of an exchange of technical information between the manufacturer or constructor and that body.
- b) The body and the staff responsible for the assessments shall carry out the assessments with the greatest possible professional integrity and the greatest possible technical competence and shall be free of any pressure and incentive, in particular of a financial nature, which could affect their judgement or the results of their inspection, in particular from persons or groups of persons affected by the results of the assessments.
- c) In particular, the body and the staff responsible for the assessments shall be functionally independent of the bodies in charge of investigations in the event of accidents.
- d) The body shall employ staff and possess the means required to perform adequately the technical and administrative tasks linked to the assessments; it shall also have access to the equipment needed for exceptional assessments.
- e) The staff responsible for the assessments shall possess
 - proper technical and vocational training,
 - satisfactory knowledge of the requirements relating to the assessments that they carry out and sufficient practice in those assessments and
 - the ability to draw up the certificates, records and reports which constitute the formal record of the assessments conducted.
- f) The independence of the staff responsible for the assessments shall be guaranteed. No official must be remunerated on the basis of the number of assessments performed or of the results of those assessments.
- g) The body shall procure civil liability insurance unless that liability is covered by the State under national law or unless the assessments are carried out directly by that Contracting State.
- h) The staff of the body shall be bound by professional secrecy with regard to everything they learn in the performance of their duties (with the exception of the competent administrative authorities in the State where they perform those activities) in pursuance of these Uniform Rules or any legal requirement and/or regulations of the Contracting State, including, where appropriate, the law of the European Community.

- § 4 The requirements of § 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the authorities carrying out technical admission.
- § 5 A Contracting State shall ensure, by notification or where appropriate by the means provided for in the law of the European Community or in the law of the States which apply Community legislation as a result of international agreements with the European Community, that the Secretary General is informed of the bodies responsible for carrying out the assessments, verifications and approvals, indicating each body's area of responsibility. The Secretary General shall publish a list of bodies, their identification numbers and areas of responsibility, and shall keep the list updated.
- § 6 A Contracting State shall ensure the consistent supervision of the bodies indicated in § 2 and shall withdraw the competence from a body which no longer meets the criteria referred to in § 3, in which case it shall immediately inform the Secretary General thereof.
- § 7 Should a Contracting State consider that an assessing or approving authority of another Contracting State, or a body having competence transferred from it, does not meet the criteria of § 3, the matter shall be transferred to the Committee of Technical Experts which, within four months, shall inform the Contracting State in question of any changes that are necessary for the body to retain the status conferred upon it. In relation to this, the Committee of Technical Experts may decide to instruct the Contracting State to suspend or withdraw approvals made on the basis of work done by the body or by the authority in question.

Article 6

Validity of technical certificates

- § 1 Technical certificates issued by the competent authority of a Contracting State in accordance with these Uniform Rules, shall be valid in all the other Contracting States. However the circulation and use on the territories of those other States shall be subject to the conditions specified in this Article.
- § 2 An admission to operation allows the rail transport undertakings to operate a vehicle only on infrastructures compatible with the vehicle according to its specifications and other conditions of the admission; it is the responsibility of the rail transport undertaking to ensure this.
- § 3 Without prejudice to Article 3a an admission to operation issued for a vehicle which is in conformity with all applicable UTP shall permit the vehicle free circulation on the territories of other Contracting States provided that
- a) all essential requirements are covered in these UTP and
 - b) the vehicle is not subject to
 - a specific case or
 - open points that are related to technical compatibility with the infrastructure or

- a derogation.

The conditions for the free circulation may also be specified in the relevant UTP.

- § 4
- a) Where in a Contracting State an admission to operation has been issued for a vehicle which is
 - subject to a specific case, an open point which is related to the technical compatibility with the infrastructure or a derogation, or
 - not in conformity with the UTP on rolling stock and all other relevant provisions, or
 - b) where not all essential requirements are covered in the UTP,

the competent authorities of the other States may ask the applicant for additional technical information such as risk analysis and/or vehicle tests before granting a complementary admission to operation.

For the part of the vehicle which is compliant with a UTP or part of it, the competent authorities have to accept verifications that have been made by other competent authorities according to the UTP. For the other part of the vehicle the competent authorities shall take full account of the equivalence table referred to in Article 13 of the APTU Uniform Rules.

The fulfilment of

- a) identical provisions and provisions declared equivalent,
 - b) provisions not related to a specific case and
 - c) provisions not related to the technical compatibility with infrastructure,
- shall not be assessed again.

- § 5 §§ 2 to 4 shall apply mutatis mutandis to an admission of a type of construction.

Article 6a **Recognition of procedural documentation**

- § 1 Assessments, declarations and other documentation made according to these Uniform Rules shall be recognised at face value by the authorities and competent bodies, the rail transport undertakings, the keepers and the infrastructure managers in all the Contracting States.
- § 2 If a requirement or a provision has been declared as equivalent in accordance with Article 13 of the APTU Uniform Rules related assessments and tests which have already been carried out and documented shall not be repeated.

Article 6b
Recognition of technical and operational tests

The Committee of Technical Experts may adopt rules for inclusion in an Annex to these Uniform Rules and requirements for inclusion in one or more UTP concerning the provisions for and the mutual recognition of technical inspections, maintenance record files for the admitted vehicles and operational tests such as train braking tests.

Article 7
Prescriptions applicable to vehicles

- § 1 In order to be admitted and remain admitted to circulation in international traffic, a railway vehicle must satisfy
- a) the UTP and
 - b) where applicable, the provisions contained in RID.
- § 2 In the absence of UTP applicable to the subsystem, the technical admission shall be based on the applicable national technical requirements in force according to Article 12 of the APTU Uniform Rules in the Contracting State in which an application for technical admission is made.
- § 3 If the UTP do not cover all essential requirements or in the case of specific cases or open points, the technical admission shall be based on
- a) the provisions contained in the UTP ,
 - b) where applicable, the provisions contained in RID and
 - c) applicable national technical requirements in force according to Article 12 of the APTU Uniform Rules.

Article 7a
Derogations

The Committee of Technical Experts shall adopt guidelines or mandatory provisions for derogations from the provisions of Article 7 and for the assessment methods that may or shall be used.

Article 8
Prescriptions applicable to railway infrastructure

- § 1 To ensure that a railway vehicle admitted to international traffic in accordance with these Uniform Rules will run safely on and be compatible with the railway infrastructure to be used this railway infrastructure must satisfy
- a) the provisions contained in the UTP and
 - b) where applicable, the provisions contained in RID.

- § 2 Admission of infrastructure and supervision of its maintenance remain subject to the provisions in force in the Contracting State in which the infrastructure is located.
- § 3 Article 7 and 7a shall apply mutatis mutandis to infrastructure.

Article 9

Operation prescriptions

- § 1 The rail transport undertakings which operate railway vehicles admitted to circulation in international traffic shall be required to comply with the prescriptions relating to the operation of a vehicle in international traffic, specified in the UTP.
- § 2 The undertakings and administrations which manage infrastructure in the Contracting States, including operational safety and control systems, intended and suitable for operation in international traffic, shall be required to comply with the technical prescriptions specified in the UTP and satisfy them permanently in respect of the construction and the management of that infrastructure.

Article 10

Application and granting of technical certificates and declarations and related conditions

- § 1 The grant of a technical certificate shall be related to the type of construction of a railway vehicle or to the railway vehicle itself.
- § 2 An application for a technical certificate may be made by:
- a) the manufacturer,
 - b) a rail transport undertaking,
 - c) the keeper of the vehicle,
 - d) the owner of the vehicle,
 - e) the infrastructure manager.
- § 3 The application for a technical certificate, including appropriate declarations, may be made to any competent authority or body within its competence referred to in Article 5, of one of the Contracting States.
- § 4 If Article 6 § 4 applies to the vehicle, the applicant shall indicate the Contracting States (if applicable the lines) for which the technical certificates are required to permit free circulation; in this case the competent authorities and assessing bodies involved should cooperate in order to make the process easier for the applicant.
- § 5 All costs arising from the admission process shall be covered by the applicant, unless provided otherwise according to the laws and prescriptions in force in the State where the approval is granted. Carrying out technical admissions for profit shall not be permitted.
- § 5a All decisions, assessments, tests etc. shall be carried out in a non-discriminatory way.

- § 6 The applicant shall elaborate and attach to his application a Technical File and a Maintenance File containing the information required in the UTP. The assessing body shall check, correct and add appropriate information to these files in order that the files reflect the properties of the vehicle.
- § 7 Every assessment carried out shall be documented by the assessor in an Assessment Report which shall substantiate the assessments carried out hereby, stating which provisions the object has been assessed against and whether the object passed or failed this assessment.
- § 8 A person who applies for a Certificate of Operation by the simplified procedure of technical admission (Article 4 § 1, b)), shall attach to his application the Design Type Certificate, established in accordance with Article 11 § 2, and demonstrate in an appropriate manner that the vehicles for which he is applying for a Certificate of Operation correspond to that type of construction.
- § 9 A technical certificate shall be granted in principle for an unlimited period; it can be general or limited in scope.
- § 10 If relevant provisions in the prescriptions according to Article 7 on the basis of which a type of construction has been admitted have been changed, and if no relevant transitional provisions can be applied, the Contracting State in which the corresponding Design Type Certificate has been issued, and after consultation of the other States where the Certificate is valid according to Article 6, shall decide whether the Certificate may remain valid or need to be renewed. The criteria which shall be checked in the case of a renewed type admission may only concern the changed provisions. The renewal of the type admission does not affect admissions to operation already granted on the basis of previously admitted types.
- § 11 In the event of renewal or upgrading, the contracting entity or the manufacturer shall send the Contracting State concerned a file describing the project. The Contracting State shall examine this file and, taking account of the implementation strategy indicated in the applicable UTP, shall decide whether the extent of the work means that a new admission to operation within the meaning of these Uniform Rules is needed.

Such a new admission to operation shall be required whenever the overall safety level of the subsystem concerned may be adversely affected by the work envisaged. If a new admission is needed, the Contracting State shall decide to what extent the provisions in the related UTP need to be applied to the project.

The Contracting State shall take its decision not later than four months after submission of the complete file by the applicant.

When a new admission is required and if the UTP are not fully applied, the Contracting States shall notify to the Secretary General

- a) the reason why a UTP is not fully applied,
- b) the technical characteristics applicable in place of the UTP and
- c) the bodies responsible for providing the information required under a) and b).

The Secretary General shall publish the notified information on the website of the Organisation.

- § 12 § 11 applies mutatis mutandis to a Design Type Certificate and to any declaration concerning the construction or the elements of construction in question.

Article 10a

Rules for withdrawals or suspensions of technical certificates

- § 1 If a competent authority of a Contracting State other than the one which has granted the (first) admission to operation discovers non-compliance it shall, with all details, inform the (first) admitting authority; if the non-compliance relates to a Design Type Certificate, the authority which issued it shall also be informed.
- § 2 A Certificate of Operation may be withdrawn
- a) when the railway vehicle no longer satisfies
 - the prescriptions contained in the UTP and in applicable national provisions in force according to Article 12 of the APTU Uniform Rules, or
 - the special conditions of its admission under Article 7a or
 - the construction and equipment prescriptions contained in RID or
 - b) if the keeper does not comply with the requirement of the competent authority to remedy the defects within the prescribed time or
 - c) when stipulations and conditions resulting from a limited admission under Article 10 § 10 are not fulfilled or complied with.
- § 3 Only the authority which has granted the Design Type Certificate or the Certificate of Operation may withdraw it.
- § 4 The Certificate of Operation shall be suspended
- a) when technical checks, inspections, maintenance and servicing of the railway vehicle prescribed in its Maintenance File, in the UTP, in the special conditions of an admission pursuant to Article 7a or in the construction and equipment prescriptions contained in RID are not carried out (or if deadlines are not observed);
 - b) if in case of severe damage to a railway vehicle, the order of the competent authority to present the vehicle is not complied with;
 - c) in case of non-compliance with these Uniform Rules and prescriptions contained in the UTP;
 - d) if applicable national provisions in force according to Article 12 of the APTU Uniform Rules or their declared equivalent provisions according to Article 13 of

the APTU Uniform Rules are not complied with. The validity of the Certificate shall be suspended for the Contracting State(s) concerned.

§ 5 The Certificate of Operation shall become void when the railway vehicle is withdrawn from service. This withdrawal from service shall be notified to the competent authority which has granted the admission to operation.

§ 6 §§ 1 to 4 shall apply mutatis mutandis to a Design Type Certificate.

Article 10b

Rules for assessments and procedures

§ 1 The Committee of Technical Experts is competent to adopt further mandatory provisions for the assessments and procedural rules for technical admission.

§ 2 In addition to, but not in contradiction with the provisions set by the Committee of Technical Experts according to § 1, Contracting States or regional organisations may adopt (or maintain) provisions for non-discriminatory detailed mandatory procedures for the assessments and requirements concerning declarations. These provisions shall be notified to the Secretary General, who shall inform the Committee of Technical Experts, and they shall be published by the Organisation.

Article 11

Technical Certificates and Declarations

§ 1 The admission of a type of construction and the admission to operation shall be evidenced by separate documents called: "Design Type Certificate" and "Certificate of Operation".

§ 2 The Design Type Certificate shall:

- a) specify the designer and intended manufacturer of the type of construction of the railway vehicle;
- a) have the Technical File and the Maintenance File attached;
- b) if appropriate, specify the special operating limitations and conditions for the type of construction of a railway vehicle and for railway vehicles which correspond to this type of construction;
- c) have the Assessment Report(s) attached;
- d) if appropriate, specify all related declarations (of conformity and verification) issued;
- e) specify the issuing competent authority, date of issue and contain the signature of the authority;
- f) if appropriate, specify its period of validity.

- § 3 The Certificate of Operation shall include
- a) all the information indicated in § 2, and
 - b) the identification code(s) of the vehicle(s) covered by the certificate;
 - c) information on the keeper of the railway vehicle(s) covered by the certificate on the day of its issue;
 - d) if appropriate, its period of validity.
- § 4 The Certificate of Operation may cover a group of individual vehicles of the same type, in which case the information required according to § 3 shall be specified identifiably for each of the vehicles of the group and the Technical File shall contain a list with identifiable documentation concerning the tests made on each vehicle.
- § 5 The Technical File and the Maintenance File shall contain the information according to the provisions in the UTP.
- § 6 The certificates shall be printed in one of the working languages according to Article 1 § 6 of the Convention.
- § 7 The certificates and declarations shall be issued to the applicant.
- § 8 The Certificate of Operation is related to the object. Once the vehicle is in operation the holder of the Certificate of Operation (including the Technical File and the Maintenance File), if not the current keeper, shall without delay hand it over to the current keeper together with the Maintenance Record File and make available all (additional) detailed instructions for maintenance and operations that are still in his possession.
- § 9 § 8 applies mutatis mutandis to vehicles and railway material admitted according to Article 19, whereby the documentation in question is the approval documentation and any other documentation containing any information similar to what is included in the requirements for the Technical File, Maintenance File and Maintenance Record File, whether in full or in part.

Article 12

Uniform formats

- § 1 The Organisation shall prescribe uniform formats of the certificates indicated in Article 11, of the declarations decided according to Article 4 § 2 and of the Assessment Report according to Article 10 § 7.
- § 2 The formats shall be prepared and adopted by the Committee of Technical Experts.
- § 3 The Committee of Technical Experts may decide to allow certificates and declarations made according to another specified format than that prescribed in these Uniform Rules, but containing the information required according to Article 11, to be recognised as equivalent substitutes.

Article 13

Registers

- § 1 A register in the form of an electronic data bank containing information concerning the railway vehicles in respect of which a Certificate of Operation has been issued and the types of constructions in respect of which a Design Type Certificate has been issued shall be established and kept up to date under the responsibility of the Organisation. The register shall include railway vehicles admitted according to Article 19; it may contain railway vehicles admitted for national traffic only.
- § 2 The data bank shall also contain a register with information concerning the competent authorities and bodies to whom competence is transferred according to Article 5 and the accredited/recognised auditors according to Article 15 § 2.
- § 3 The Committee of Technical Experts may decide to include other data to be used in railway operations in the data bank, such as information concerning declarations, inspections and maintenance of the admitted vehicles (including next inspection due), information on accidents and incidents and registers concerning coding of vehicles, locations, rail transport undertakings, keepers, infrastructure managers, workshops, manufacturers, entities in charge of maintenance (ECM) etc.
- § 4 The Committee of Technical Experts shall establish the functional and technical architecture of the data bank, as well as the necessary data, when and how the data shall be provided, what the access rights will be and other administrative and organisational provisions, including which database structure should be applied. In all cases, change of keeper, change of ECM, withdrawals from service, official immobilisations, suspensions and withdrawals of certificates, declarations or other evidence and modifications to a vehicle which derogate from the admitted type of construction shall be notified to the Secretary General without delay.
- § 5 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. In order also to minimise the cost for the Organisation and obtain coherent register systems, all parties involved shall coordinate with the Organisation their plans and the development of registers which are within the scope of these Uniform Rules.
- § 6 The data registered in the data bank shall be considered as *prima facie* evidence of the technical admission of a railway vehicle.
- § 7 The Committee of Technical Experts may decide that the costs of setting up and running the data bank shall be covered, in whole or in part, by the users; supplying and amending data shall be free of charge, whereas consulting data may be subject to a fee.

Article 14

Inscriptions and signs

§ 1 Railway vehicles admitted to operation must bear

- a) a sign, which establishes clearly that they have been admitted to operation in international traffic according to these Uniform Rules, and
- b) the other inscriptions and signs prescribed in the UTP, including a unique identification code (the vehicle number).

The competent authority which grants the admission to operation is responsible for ensuring that the alphanumeric identification code is assigned to each vehicle. This code, which shall include the country code of the (first) admitting State, must be marked on each vehicle and be entered in the National Vehicle Register (NVR) of that State as required according to Article 13.

§ 2 The Committee of Technical Experts shall lay down the sign provided for in § 1 a) and the transitional periods during which the railway vehicles admitted to circulation in international traffic may bear inscriptions and signs derogating from those prescribed in § 1.

Article 15

Maintenance

§ 1 Railway vehicles and other railway material must be in a good state of maintenance in such a way that they comply with the provisions specified in the UTP and satisfy them permanently and that their condition would not in any way compromise operational safety and would not harm the infrastructure, environment and public health by their circulation or their use in international traffic. To that end, railway vehicles and other railway material must be made available for and undergo the service, inspections and maintenance as prescribed in the Maintenance File attached to the Certificate of Operation, the UTP, the special conditions of an admission pursuant to Article 7a and in the provisions contained in RID.

§ 2 Each railway vehicle, before it is admitted to operation or used on the network, shall have an entity in charge of maintenance (ECM) assigned to it and this entity shall be registered in the data bank referred to in Article 13. A railway undertaking, an infrastructure manager or a keeper may be an ECM. The ECM shall ensure that the vehicles for which it is in charge of maintenance are in a safe state of running by means of a system of maintenance. The ECM shall carry out the maintenance itself or make use of contracted maintenance workshops.

The ECM for a freight wagon must hold a valid certificate issued by an external auditor accredited/recognised in one of the Contracting States.

The Committee of Technical Experts shall adopt further detailed rules for certification and auditing of ECM, for accredited/recognised auditors, their accreditation/recognition, the audits and audit certificates. The rules shall indicate whether they are equivalent to the criteria related to the ECM certification system adopted in the

European Community or in the States which apply Community legislation as a result of international agreements with the European Community.

These rules, which shall also include rules for the withdrawal and suspension of certificates and accreditations, shall be defined in an Annex to these Uniform Rules and shall form an integral part thereof.

- § 3 An operating railway undertaking is responsible for the safe operation of its trains and shall ensure that vehicles carried are properly maintained. Therefore, the ECM must ensure that reliable information about maintenance processes and data are available for the operating railway undertaking, and the operating railway undertaking must in due time provide the ECM with information and data concerning its operation of the vehicles and other railway material for which the ECM is in charge. In both cases the information and data in question shall be specified in the Annex indicated in § 2.
- § 4 The ECM of an admitted vehicle shall keep and update a Maintenance Record File for that vehicle. The file shall be available for inspection by the competent national authority.
- § 5 The Committee of Technical Experts may adopt guidelines or regulations on the certification and auditing of maintenance workshops and the mutual recognition of the certificates and audits. Regulations according to this paragraph shall be defined in an Annex to these Uniform Rules and shall form an integral part thereof and be published on the website of the Organisation.

Article 16 **Accidents, incidents and severe damage**

- § 1 In case of accident, incident or severe damage to railway vehicles, all parties involved (the infrastructure managers, the keepers, the ECM, the railway undertakings concerned and possible others), shall be required
- a) to take, without delay, all necessary measures to ensure the safety of railway traffic, respect for the environment and public health and
 - b) to establish the causes of the accident, the incident or the severe damage.
- § 1a The measures according to § 1 must be coordinated. Such coordination is the obligation of the infrastructure manager unless otherwise prescribed by provisions in force in the State in question. In addition to the duty of investigation placed upon the parties involved, the Contracting State may require an independent investigation to be carried out.
- § 2 A vehicle shall be considered severely damaged when it cannot be repaired by a simple operation which would allow it to be joined in a train and to circulate on its own wheels without danger for operations. If the repair can be carried out in less than 72 hours or the cost is less than 0.18 million SDR in total, the damage shall not be considered as severe.
- § 3 The accidents, incidents and severe damage shall be notified, without delay, to the authority or body which admitted the vehicle to circulation. That authority or body

may require the damaged vehicle to be presented, possibly already repaired, for examination of the validity of the admission to operation which has been granted. If appropriate, the procedure concerning the grant of admission to operation must be repeated.

- § 4 The Contracting States shall keep records, publish investigation reports including their findings and recommendations, inform the approval certificate issuing authority and the Organisation of the causes of accidents, incidents and severe damage in international traffic that occurred on their territory. The Committee of Technical Experts may examine the causes of serious accidents and incidents or severe damage in international traffic with a view possibly to developing the construction and operation prescriptions for railway vehicles and other railway material contained in the UTP and may if appropriate decide to instruct the Contracting States within a short time limit to suspend relevant Certificates to Operation, Design Type Certificates or declarations issued.
- § 5 The Committee of Technical Experts may prepare and adopt further mandatory rules concerning the investigation of serious accidents, incidents and severe damage, requirements concerning independent State investigation bodies and the form and content of reports. It may also change the values/numbers in § 2 and in Article 2 ff).

Article 17

Immobilisation and rejection of vehicles

- § 1 A competent authority, another rail transport undertaking or an infrastructure manager may not reject or immobilise railway vehicles to prevent them from running on compatible railway infrastructures if these Uniform Rules, the prescriptions contained in the UTP, the special conditions, if any, for the admission set out by the admitting authority as well as the construction and operation prescriptions contained in RID, are complied with.
- § 2 The right of a competent authority to inspect and immobilise a vehicle is not affected if non-compliance with § 1 is suspected, but the examination to establish certainty should be carried out as quickly as possible and in any case within 24 hours.
- § 3 However, if a Contracting State does not suspend or withdraw a certificate within the limit indicated according to Article 5 § 7 or Article 16 § 4, other Contracting States are entitled to reject or immobilise the vehicle(s) in question.

Article 18

Non-compliance with the prescriptions

- § 1 Subject to § 2 and Article 10 a § 4 c), the legal consequences resulting from failure to comply with these Uniform Rules and the UTP, shall be regulated by the provisions in force in the Contracting State of which the competent authority has granted the first admission to operation, including the rules relating to conflict of laws.
- § 2 The consequences in civil and penal law resulting from failure to comply with these Uniform Rules and the UTP shall be regulated, so far as concerns the infrastructure, by the provisions in force in the Contracting State in which the infrastructure manager has his place of business, including the rules relating to conflict of laws.

Article 19

Transitional provisions

- § 1 Article 3 § 1 applies to upgraded, renewed and existing vehicles. For vehicles which have been approved for international traffic under RIV, RIC or other pertinent international agreements and which are marked accordingly, transitional provisions are prescribed in this Article.
- § 2 At the time of entry into force of these Uniform Rules, existing vehicles marked with RIV or RIC as proof of current compliance with the technical provisions of the RIV 2000 agreement (revised edition of 1 January 2004) or the RIC agreement respectively, shall be deemed to be admitted to operation on the networks of the Contracting States in accordance with their compatibility with the railway infrastructures (in respect of the markings on the wagon) for which it is admitted by one of the Contracting States.
- § 2a Existing vehicles not marked RIV or RIC but admitted and marked according to bilateral or multilateral agreements between Contracting States notified to the Organisation shall also be deemed to be admitted to operation on the networks covered by the agreement.
- § 3 The transitional admission according to §§ 2 and 2a is valid until the vehicle requires a new admission according to Article 10 § 11.
- § 4 The inscription RIV, RIC, or another marking on the vehicle accepted by the Committee of Technical Experts, together with the data stored in the database indicated in Article 13, shall be considered as sufficient proof of the approval. Unauthorised changing of this marking shall be considered as fraud and prosecuted according to national law.
- § 5 Regardless of this transitional provision, the vehicle and its documentation shall comply with the provisions in force of the UTP concerning marking and maintenance; compliance with the provisions of RID in force shall also be ensured, where applicable. The Committee of Technical Experts may also decide that safety-based provisions introduced in the UTP shall be complied with within a certain deadline regardless of any transitional provisions.
- § 6 Existing vehicles which are not covered by the scope of §§ 2 and 2a can be admitted to operation upon the request of an applicant to a competent authority. The latter may request additional technical information from the applicant, risk analysis and/or vehicle tests before granting a complementary admission to operation. However the competent authorities shall take full account of the equivalence table referred to in Article 13 of the APTU Uniform Rules.
- § 7 The Committee of Technical Experts may adopt other transitional provisions.

Article 20
Disputes

Disputes relating to the technical admission of railway vehicles and other railway material intended to be used in international traffic, may be dealt with by the Committee of Technical Experts if there is no resolution by direct negotiation between the parties involved. Such disputes may also be submitted, in accordance with the procedure specified in Title V of the Convention, to the Arbitration Tribunal.