Further information
You can find further information on items mentioned in this leaflet:

• DfT’s website www.gov.uk/current notified national technical rules
• RSSB’s website (www.rssb.co.uk)
• The RGSonline website (www.rgsonline.co.uk)
• In other leaflets in this series on:
  • Technical Specifications for Interoperability relating to structural sub-systems
  • Railway Group Standards

These and other leaflets are available on the RSSB website.
Introduction

This leaflet may be of particular interest to:
- People who manage projects in the rail industry.
- People in the rail industry who use standards.
- Suppliers, manufacturers or maintainers of railway components, subsystems and vehicles.

National Technical Rules (NTRs) are required by the Railway Interoperability Directive 2008/57/EC. Their use is mandated by the Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011, which transpose Directive 2008/57/EC into UK law.

Why do we have NTRs?

NTRs supplement Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs) where the TSIs are not sufficient. For more information about TSIs, consult the leaflet in this series on 'TSIs relating to structural subsystems'.

What are NTRs?

The majority of NTRs for the GB mainline railway are the requirements contained in asset-related Railway Group Standards (RGSs). However, requirements in RGSs are not the only NTRs. The Department for Transport (DfT) may notify other NTRs for the GB mainline railway.

NTRs provide additional requirements to meet the 'essential requirements' specified in the Directive 2008/57/EC. NTRs are used:
- To fill an open point in a TSI.
- To address a national specific case in a TSI.
- As derogations from a TSI.
- As requirements to maintain technical compatibility between new assets, which may conform to TSIs, and the existing assets (for example, the fixed parts of the infrastructure) or processes that do not yet conform to TSIs.

NTRs specify:
- Requirements that structural subsystems and vehicles must meet before they are placed in service; or
- Limits within which subsystems and vehicles must be maintained in order that they can remain in service; or
- How subsystems and vehicles must be classified or described for compatibility assessment purposes (for example: gauge, RA number).

Notification of NTRs

Directive 2008/57/EC requires member states to notify NTRs to the European Commission (EC). In the UK, RSSB proposes NTRs in RGSs to the DfT for notification. The DfT considers these NTRs, and NTRs from other networks (such as HS1 or Northern Ireland), and formally notifies all UK NTRs to the EC.

Where can I find NTRs?

Most NTRs are contained in RGSs. RGSs can be found on www.rgsonline.co.uk

Notified NTRs for the GB mainline railway system are available on the DfT’s website. In future, notified NTRs for all EU member states will be publicly available in a database managed by the European Railway Agency (ERA) called NOTIF-IT. Additionally, each member state is required to list the NTRs relating to authorisation of railway vehicles in its National Reference Document (NRD); the NTRs for all EU member states are recorded in the Reference Document Database (RDD).

The GB mainline railway is the GB railway system excluding trams, metros, and infrastructure and vehicles reserved for local use, for tourism or to run a heritage railway.