



Rail Executive

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Dear Stakeholder,

INTEROPERABILITY CONSTITUENTS AND SPECIFIC CASES

On 17 April 2015 the European Railway Agency issued a technical opinion about the use of interoperability constituents (ICs) that need to comply with UK specific cases. This was in response to concerns raised about the interoperability framework which did not contain a clear methodology for their assessment of conformity or suitability for use as referred to under Part 3 of the 2011 Interoperability (Railway) Regulations.

The ERA technical opinion is enclosed *ERA/OPI/2015-2 of the European Railway Agency for European Commission regarding the issue of Interoperability Constituents and Specific Cases raised by UK*.

The opinion states that a Member State is able to define a procedure for the assessment of such interoperability constituents that refer to specific cases within the Member State. When such a procedure is used it could remove the need for repeating tests each time the same component is used in subsequent projects.

The Department asked RSSB to recommend such a procedure and this is contained in the attached document which refers to the possibility of using the same process as the one for Intermediate Statement of Verification.

The Department agrees that this is a pragmatic solution and recognises it is a suitable option for use by projects seeking an authorisation within the UK.

I am copying this letter to Paul Hooper at the Office of Rail and Road and Garry McKenna at the Department for Regional Development in Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully,

Robin Groth
Deputy Director
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