

OPINION

OPI 2020-4

OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR RAILWAYS

for

Slovak Republic

regarding

Negative assessment of National Rules of Slovak Republic in addition to the latest TSIs in force for the Rolling Stock and on-board CCS subsystems notified in the Reference Document Database by Member States according to Articles 25 and 26 of the Agency Regulation

Disclaimer:

The present document is a non-legally binding opinion of the European Union Agency for Railways. It does not represent the view of other EU institutions and bodies, and is without prejudice to the decision-making processes foreseen by the applicable EU legislation. Furthermore, a binding interpretation of EU law is the sole competence of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

General Context

- 1.1 The scope extension of TSIs (with effect on 01 January 2015), the functional and technical harmonisation of requirements within TSIs made a series of national rules redundant and unnecessary.
- 1.2 The articles 13 and 14 of Directive(EU) 2016/797 indicate clearly cases where national rules may continue to apply:
 - New national rules may only be adopted in of the following cases (article 14(4)), :
 - o when a TSI does not fully meet the essential requirements;
 - o as an urgent preventive measure, in particular following an accident.
 - Existing national rules (article 13(2)) are limited to :
 - o where the TSIs do not cover, or do not fully cover, certain aspects corresponding to the essential requirements, including **open points** as referred to in Article 4(6)Case where non-application of one or more TSIs or parts of them has been notified under article 7 of Directive(EU) 2016/797,
 - o Specific cases listed but not described in TSIs,
 - o Ensure technical compatibility with existing network not yet in compliance with TSI,
 - o Vehicles excluded from the scope of TSIs,
 - o Urgent temporary preventive measure, in particular following an accident.
- 1.3 According to article 14 of Directive (EU) 2016/797, Member States had to notify existing national rules before 16 December 2016 and have to notify draft national rules. When notifying an existing national rule or a draft national rule, Members States have to provide justification for the existence of national rules (e.g. identification of the related open-point).
- 1.4 Member States shall notify their national rules for vehicle authorisation. According to the communication of the Commission in RISC, until the Single Rules Database is available, the notification is performed in the Reference Document Database (RDD).
- 1.5 Since 2016, in accordance to the ERA programme plan on cleaning-up of national rules ERA-PRG-006-PPL, Member States and the Agency started the activity on identification and evaluation of national rules in addition to the following TSIs:
 - TSI WAG: Commission Regulation (EU) No 321/2013, amended by Regulation (EU) No 1236/2013,
 - TSI LOC&PAS: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1302/2014,
 - TSI PRM: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1300/2014,
 - TSI Noise: Commission Regulation (EU) No 1304/2014,
 - TSI CCS: Commission Regulation (EU) No 2016/919 (including ERA/ERTMS/033281 rev 3.0 dated 04/12/2015).
- 1.6 From 16 June 2019 and pending the Single Rules Database, the Reference Document Database will be the reference for applicants, NSAs and the Agency in terms of applicable national rules for vehicle authorisation.
- 1.7 The scope of the technical opinion covers the examination of national rules (existing or draft) leading to a negative assessment by the Agency.
- 1.8 The complete assessment covering the examination of all national rules (existing or draft) in addition to TSIs mentioned in section 1.5 is available in the Evaluation Report of remaining national rules ERA-PRG-006-REP-RST.

2. Legal Background

2.1 According to the provisions of article 13.2 of Directive (EU) 2016/797, national rules and where relevant acceptable national means of compliance shall apply in the cases defined below:

- a) where the TSIs do not cover, or do not fully cover, certain aspects corresponding to the essential requirements, including open points ;
- b) where non-application of one or more TSIs or parts of them;
- c) where a specific case requires the application of technical rules not included in the relevant TSI;
- d) national rules used to specify existing systems, limited to the aim of assessing technical compatibility of the vehicle with the network;
- e) networks and vehicles not covered by TSIs;
- f) as an urgent temporary preventive measure, in particular following an accident.

2.2 According to the provisions of article 14 (9) of Directive (EU) 2016/797, draft national rules and national rules referred to in paragraph 1 shall be examined by the Agency in accordance with the procedures laid down in Articles 25 and 26 of Regulation (EU) 2016/796.

2.3 According to the provisions of Article 25 (3) of the Agency Regulation 2016/796, where the examination referred to in paragraph 1 leads to a negative assessment, the Agency shall inform the Member State concerned and ask it to state its position regarding that assessment. If, following that exchange of views with the Member State concerned, the Agency maintains its negative assessment, the Agency shall within a maximum period of 1 month:

(a) issue an opinion addressed to the Member State concerned, stating the reasons why the national rule or rules in question should not enter into force and/or be applied; and

(b) inform the Commission of its negative assessment, stating the reasons why the national rule or rules in question should not enter into force and/or be applied.

This shall not prejudice the right of a Member State to adopt a new national rule in accordance with point (c) of Article 8(3) of Directive (EU) 2016/798 or with point (b) of Article 14(4) of Directive (EU) 2016/797

2.4 According to the provisions of Article 26 (3) of the Agency Regulation 2016/796, where the examination referred to in paragraph 1 leads to a negative assessment, the Agency shall inform the Member State concerned and ask it to state its position regarding that assessment. If, following that exchange of views with the Member State concerned, the Agency maintains its negative assessment, the Agency shall within a maximum period of 1 month:

(a) issue an opinion addressed to the Member State concerned, stating that the national rule or rules in question has or have been the subject of a negative assessment and the reasons why the rule or rules in question should be modified or repealed; and

(b) inform the Commission of its negative assessment, stating the reasons why the national rule or rules in question should be modified or repealed.

3. Analysis

3.1. Tasks under the responsibility of the Member States:

In accordance to rules cleaning-up program plan ERA-PRG-006-PPL from March 2016, Member states were asked to:

- Identify and remove national rules covered by TSIs,
- Relate national rules to the TSIs and to the updated list of parameters defined in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2299,
- Clearly refer national rules not related to open point(s) or specific case(s) to TSI requirements in order to identify if they complement/contradict/replace TSIs for compatibility with existing networks,
- Ensure that the requirement is a mandatory rule. Acceptable national means of compliance in accordance to the definition in article 2 (34) of Directive 2016/797 is not considered as a national rule,
- Identify and analyse requirements that don't relate to any of the above, verify, in this case for example if the TSI is deficient/non-exhaustive.

Based on the outcome of this activity, Member States should have:

- Published their national rules in the Reference Document Database and
- Aligned their national legislation for vehicle authorisation with the Reference Document Database.

3.2. Tasks carried out by the Agency

During the project of cleaning up of national rules for vehicle authorisation covered by the Rules cleaning up program plan ERA-PRG-006-PPL, the Agency has:

- Provided technical support to Member States in the cleaning up of the remaining rules by ensuring:
 - o That rules relate to: Open points, Specific cases, Legacy system or rule duly justified for compatibility with existing fixed installation (i.e. a specific case not declared up to now).
 - o Consistency with the EU framework, including register of infrastructure and responsibilities of actors as defined in the Safety Directive and TSI OPE.
 - o That the rule is transparent and not discriminatory.
 - o The update of the Reference Document Database.
- Assessed the relevance of the remaining national rules together with the Member states, using the Reference Document Database as a reference.
- Provided regular reporting to European commission on the progress made.
- Updated the Reference Document Database with the status of the evaluation.
- In accordance with article 25(3) and 26(3) of Agency regulation (EU) 2016/796, the Agency informed officially the Member States and the European Commission through an assessment report, sent by email, on the national rules in addition to latest TSIs (ERA-PRG-006-REP-RST). This report was published on the ERA website and uploaded on the CIRCABC.
- The Agency asked to the Member States to check the report, to provide comments and to take into consideration the actions proposed.
- Following the publication of the assessment report (ERA-PRG-006-REP-RST), NSA SK considered most of the actions proposed, revised the national rules and published them in RDD.
- This technical opinion provides the evaluation on the single remaining national rule concerned by the negative assessment. The national rule is related to train detection system and should be revised taking into account the Agency proposal made to NSA SK.
- **NSA SK** informed that according to the infrastructure manager, there is an ongoing process on establishing the analysis on rail return current impact emitting from modern tractive vehicles on the infrastructure by the end of 2020.

3.2.1. National rules subject to assessment by the Agency

The table 1 below provides an overview of national rules notified by Member States and subject or not to an assessment by the Agency:

Table 1 : Overview of national rules notified by Member States and subject or not to an assessment by the Agency

National Rules relates to	Published in RDD	Evaluated	Remarks
Vehicles in the scope of Loc&Pas and WAG TSIs	Yes	Yes	Freight wagons, Locomotives, Trainsets / Electric or Diesel Multiple Unit, Passenger coaches, Track machines/OTMs.
Article 13.2(a): Open points listed in TSIs	Yes	Yes	TSIs clearly identify where a national rule may be kept and notified; traceability between TSIs and possible remaining national rules is clearly established, and the corresponding rules are recorded in RDD. The Agency checked if the national rule covers the scope of the open point.
Article 13.2(a): Other Directives	Yes	No	Corresponding rules are available in RDD. Anyway, it will have to be decided at later stage with the Commission how to deal with these rules, considering the mentioned Directives. As a general principle, the TSIs in force don't cover subjects in the scope of these other EU Directives. Corresponding parameters are defined in section 3.2.3 of the report ERA-PRG-006-REP-RST
Article 13.2 (b): Non application of TSI	No	No	
Article 13.2 (c): Specific cases mentioned but not described in TSIs	Yes	Yes	TSIs clearly identify where a national rule may be kept and notified. Traceability between TSIs and possible remaining national rules is clearly established, and the corresponding rules are recorded in RDD. The Agency checked if the national rule covers the scope of the specific case.
Article 13.2(d): Technical compatibility between vehicle and existing network(s)	Yes	Yes	This includes vehicles with ETCS pre-baseline 2 versions (e.g. 2.2.2), additional functionality implemented on-board (e.g. NTRs from other MS) and TSI options implemented trackside (e.g. infill).
Article 13.2 (e): Vehicles not covered by TSIs	No	No	Concern vehicles such as Tram-Train, metric gauge vehicle.
Article 13.2 (f): Urgent temporary preventive measure following an accident	No	No	

Table 1 : Overview of national rules notified by Member States and subject or not to an assessment by the Agency

National Rules relates to	Published in RDD	Evaluated	Remarks
TSI potentially deficient or not exhaustive	Yes	Yes	National rules when accepted by the Agency are maintained pending the resolution of the potential deficiency.
Previous versions of TSIs not listed in section 3.1.2 of the report ERA-PRG-006-REP-RST	Yes	No	
Vehicle not TSI compliant authorised before TSIs.	Yes	No	Rules are in RDD for reference/history and are not subject to Agency evaluation.

3.2.2. Summary of the results of the examination of national rules

The table 2 below provides an overview of the number of national rules and acceptable national means of compliance notified by the Member State in addition to latest TSIs and the results of the examination leading to a positive or negative assessment.

The annex 1 provides details of the assessment leading to negative assessment. The national rules subject to discussion/clarification with the Member State are also counted in the column “Negative assessment”.

Table 2 : number of national rules notified by Member states and results of the examination

Member State	Number of National rules	Results of the examination		Remarks
		Positive assessment	Negative assessment	
Slovak Republic	8	7	1	1 National rule related to compatibility with train detection systems may be accepted if it is revised

4. The opinion

In accordance with article 26(3) of Regulation 2016/796, the opinion covers the examination of national rules by the Agency leading to a negative assessment.

The annex 1 provides to the Member State:

- The list of actions to be taken into account,
- An assessment table with :
 - o The national rules concerned,
 - o The Agency assessment of each rule and the reasons why this is not accepted,
 - o The status of the assessment indicating whether the rule(s) should be modified or repealed.

Valenciennes, 13/05/2020



Josef DOPPELBAUER
Executive Director

5. ANNEX 1 – Examination of national rules leading to negative assessment

The following action should be taken into account by Slovak Republic:

- The national rule related to train detection system should be modified in accordance with the Agency evaluation.

The table below presents the rules where the evaluation performed by the Agency lead to a negative assessment.

Subsystem	Distribution of remaining rules	National rules	Examination of national rules leading to a negative assessment	Agency assessment status
RST/CCS	Rules related to compatibility with TDS	<p><u>8.4.2.1.1-Rail return current:</u> Under the terms of the infrastructure manager</p>	<p>The national rule refers to clause 4.2.3.3.1.1 of Loc&Pas TSI 1302/2014.</p> <p>Agency : The NSA SK has to make the limits of harmonic currents and the test method publicly available. Please provide the document containing the requirements and precise also the applicable section(s) of it. The document should be uploaded in RDD.</p> <p>NSA SK indicates that according to the current information from the infrastructure manager, there is an ongoing process on establishing the analysis on rail return current impact emitting from modern tractive vehicles on the infrastructure by the end of 2020.</p>	Not accepted, NR should be modified