

ERA PUBLISHES COVID-19 INFORMATION BULLETIN ON VENTILATION IN RAILWAY VEHICLES

VALENCIENNES, France, 28th September 2020

The European Union Agency for Railways has published today a COVID-19 Information Bulletin with technical expert advice on Ventilation in Railway Vehicles.

The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) supports the efforts of European railway companies to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 by providing expertise and by facilitating the international exchange of COVID-19 relevant information, experience and best practice.

The Information Bulletin on Ventilation in Railway Vehicles gives detailed recommendations taking into account the main air distribution concepts applied in railway vehicles and drivers' cabs today: natural ventilation, forced air ventilation systems - sometimes with air refresher devices, and air conditioning (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning - HVAC) systems. It provides detailed non-binding information related to ventilation of passenger trains to safeguard the health and safety of passengers, transport workers and staff, and to re-establish trust in rail services.

"Railway vehicles are already designed to allow optimal ventilation", states Josef Doppelbauer, Executive Director of ERA, "however adapting some aspects of the train design, ensuring its proper maintenance and influencing certain settings may contribute to further reduce the risk of spreading of the COVID-19 virus."

The Information Bulletin on Ventilation in Railway Vehicles is the result of a collaborative effort among experts from the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) with contributions from the European Commission, National Safety Authorities and railway sector representatives. It reflects the current status of knowledge about the COVID-19 disease and its pandemic effect. It summarises preventive measures considered effective at the date of publication. While the herein proposed COVID-19 mitigating measures are not legally binding, they represent harmonising measures and may serve as reference for the European railway sector.

On 21 July 2020, ERA and [ECDC](#) published the [COVID-19 Rail Protocol](#), which provides operational guidelines for the resumption of railway operations in Europe after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The Information Bulletin on Ventilation in Railway Vehicles published today, complements the guidelines given in the COVID-19 Rail Protocol.

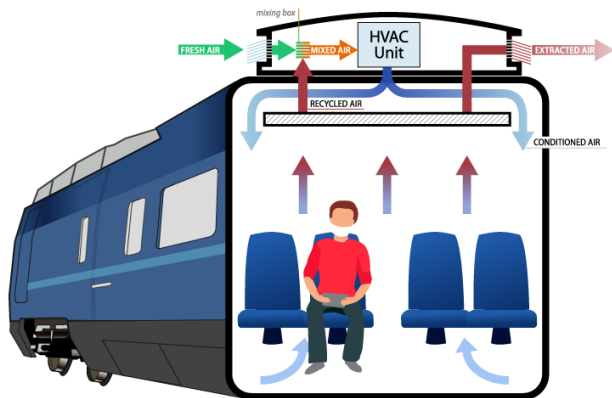
For more information or feedback, write to COVID-RAIL@era.europa.eu

About the EU Agency for Railways

The European Union Agency for Railways was established in Valenciennes (offices) and Lille (meeting facilities) in 2004. Its approx. 200 staff represent more than 22 European Member States and speak multiple languages. ERA has been providing EU Member States and the European Commission with technical assistance in the development and implementation of the Single European Railway Area. This comprises enhancing technical interoperability and harmonising rules, promoting simplified access for customers, developing a common approach to safety and safety culture, advising on telematics applications and ERTMS (European Traffic Management System), monitoring National Safety Authorities and Notified Bodies and facilitating the exchange of information between the railway actors in Europe. Since 16th June 2019 the EU Agency for Railways is mandated to issue single safety certificates and vehicle (type) authorisations valid in multiple European countries and to ensure an interoperable European Rail Traffic Management System. The purpose of these activities is expressed by the slogan “Making the railway system work better for society.”

[Download the Information Bulletin](#)

[Download figure](#): typical ventilation situation in a passenger vehicle (© EU Agency for Railways)



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