

FIRST 100 DAYS OF NEW PROCESSES AT ERA HAVE PROVEN SUCCESSFUL

VALENCIENNES, France, 24 September 2019

The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) has successfully managed the first 100 days of new processes after the implementation of the new EU legislation (Fourth Railway Package).

Since June 16th 2019 ERA is the European institution mandated to authorise vehicles that operate across borders in Europe, to issue single safety certificates which are valid in multiple European states, and to ensure an interoperable European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS).

“Today, after 100 days of intense activities at the Agency as authorising entity, we are proud that the new processes are running smoothly”, says Josef Doppelbauer, Executive Director of ERA. The success of the first 100 days is an endorsement of the preparatory work done by the Agency that included, cooperation agreements with National Safety Authorities, peer review with the Management Board, an extensive programme of learning cases and positive collaboration with the National Safety Authorities. The Management Board will continue to monitor the implementation period in 2020 through its subgroup, the 4th Railway Package steering group.

Today the situation is as follows: with regards to Vehicle Authorisation, the Agency has received 172 valid applications via the One-Stop Shop IT tool (OSS). A great majority of them (156) are authorisations for placing on the market in conformity with a (previously) authorised type of vehicle (Article 25 of the Interoperability Directive 2016/767). Other requests for vehicle authorisation comprise: 2 pre-engagements, 6 first authorisations, 7 authorisations for new area of use or the extension of area of use and 1 renewed vehicle authorisation. In terms of vehicles, the authorisations delivered by the Agency since 16th June 2019 represent more than 1.500 vehicles (both wagons and locomotives).

The Agency received 8 valid applications for Single Safety Certificates. It issued the first decision on a Single Safety certificate on 16th September and is currently assessing 7 more applications.

Together with the applicant, ERA teams are currently working on 3 initial engagements for ERTMS Trackside Approval.

More applications are expected leading up to June 2020, when the remaining Member States will introduce the new regime.

Thierry Breyne, Head of the Approvals and Delivery Unit, confirms that “the Agency manages to decide on ‘conformity-to-type’ authorisations in less than 15 calendar days on average, even though the deadline set by the EU legislation is one month after submission of the application in the One-Stop Shop. Continued learning may even decrease this average timespan in the near future”.

Not all EU Member States have transposed the new legislation, which means that different procedures apply in different EU countries. Bulgaria, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Romania and Slovenia have adopted the new regime in June 2019. Switzerland adopted the new regime on a case-by-case basis from June 2019. The remaining EU member states chose to transpose the new legislation by June 2020. “The key challenge for the Agency is to make the new procedures work as seamlessly and effectively as possible, particularly throughout the transition period until 16th June 2020”, says Josef Doppelbauer, “looking at our experiences from the past 100 days I am very proud about the excellent work done by our assessment teams and I look optimistically into the future”.

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 Rail 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.”

Downloads:

[ERA Newsletter 24 September 2019](#)

[Infographic](#) 100 days of new processes at ERA

Josef Doppelbauer signing the [first decision on a Single Safety Certificate by ERA](#) on 16th Sept. 2019

EU Agency for Railways [office building](#)

Media Contact:

Communication team

120 Rue Marc Lefrancq | BP 20392 | FR-59307 Valenciennes Cedex

Tel. +33 (0)327 09 65 00

era.europa.eu

communication@era.europa.eu

