

UNECE

**Guidance Notes on the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification
of Railway Rolling Stock**



UNITED NATIONS

Guidance Notes on the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock



UNITED NATIONS

Geneva, 2024

© 2024 United Nations
All rights reserved worldwide

Requests to reproduce excerpts or to photocopy, for sales purposes, should be addressed to the Copyright Clearance Center at copyright.com.

All other queries on rights and licenses, including subsidiary rights, should be addressed to:

United Nations Publications
405 East 42nd Street, S-09FW001
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Email: permissions@un.org
website: <https://shop.un.org>

The designations employed and the presentation of material on any map in this work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

United Nations publication issued by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Photo credits: Cover page: Adobe Stock,
Annex: figure 1: Leonid_Andronov and Bobarding2Now;
figures 3 and 14: scanrail; figure 4: Leonid_Andronov;
figure 5: g0d4ather; figure 8: MAXSHOT; figure 9: kenhurst; figure 10: pio3;
figure 11: rglinsky; figure 13: kslfoto; figure 15: cherokee4; figure 16: phil_bird;
figure 18: tifonimages; figure 19: vampy1; figure 20: fotomt;
figure 21: philipus from www.depositphotos.com and
figures 2, 6, 7, 12 and 17: Mr. Howard Rosen.

ECE/TRANS/NONE/2024/1

eISBN: 978-92-1-358463-7

Guidance Notes on the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock

Contents

Introduction.....

6

Guidance.....

6

Annex.....

21

List of figures

| | | |
|-----------|---|----|
| Figure 1 | Examples of Combinations of Items of Railway Rolling Stock..... | 22 |
| Figure 2 | Examples of One Item of Rolling Stock..... | 23 |
| Figure 3 | Examples of the Types of Railway Rolling Stock included in Appendix 2.... | 23 |
| Figure 4 | Shunter..... | 24 |
| Figure 5 | Passenger Car | 24 |
| Figure 6 | Control Car | 25 |
| Figure 7 | Motor car..... | 25 |
| Figure 8 | Car carriers | 26 |
| Figure 9 | Light Rail | 26 |
| Figure 10 | Metro, etc..... | 27 |
| Figure 11 | Trams | 27 |
| Figure 12 | (Horse-drawn) Tram | 28 |
| Figure 13 | Tram-trains - to follow | 28 |
| Figure 14 | Freight wagons..... | 29 |
| Figure 15 | Special vehicles, etc | 29 |
| Figure 16 | Heritage, etc | 30 |
| Figure 17 | Road Rail Vehicles | 30 |
| Figure 18 | Shuttles at airports | 31 |
| Figure 19 | Hyperloop pods..... | 31 |
| Figure 20 | Monorail vehicles..... | 32 |
| Figure 21 | Maglev vehicles..... | 32 |

24 February 2023

Introduction

1. These Guidance Notes on the Model Rules are issued by the Working Party on Rail Transport and updated by the Revisions Committee established pursuant to article 8 of the Model Rules on Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock. They are intended to assist participants, courts and administrative entities in understanding the intention behind the drafting of the Model Rules and with their interpretation. They do not form part of the Model Rules and is not binding on a participant.

Guidance

Article 3

Item of railway rolling stock

2. By an “item” the Revisions Committee expects this to be either an autonomous unit capable of operating separately or part of a train set with this concept mirroring industry practice as much as possible. So, an articulated coach or carriage with a single immatriculation or running number would be considered as one item. A tram with several articulations (but not a separate carriage) would be considered as one item. A train set or rake would usually be a collection of items. This would be the case even where carriages could not easily operate on their own because of shared bogies (such as with TGV train sets) where the operator has separately numbered the coaches.

The images shown in exhibit 1 attached are examples of combination of items. The images shown in exhibit 2 are examples of one item of railway rolling stock

Article 8.3

Amendments to the Model Rules

3. It is intended that the industry will usually be given good notice of any change to the Model Rules. However, there may be a force majeure or other circumstance that will necessitate a shorter notice period, so that the Working Party on Rail Transport can act expeditiously if the circumstances require.

Appendix 1 – Material

4. It is expected that the plate will be aluminium or other rust-free metal but this is not mandatory. A very strong and resilient plastic would also be an option.

Appendix 1 – Colour

5. The expectation is that the plate (the URVIS marker) will be a silver background with black raised writing, but some operators may wish to use different combinations because of the colour scheme of the rolling stock concerned. This is considered to be in accordance with the Model Rules as long as it is the information on the plate is clear (with a strong contrast).

Appendix 2 – Examples of Items of Railway Rolling Stock

6. Railway equipment can have different descriptions in different parts of the world. Set out below are more detailed examples of definitions of certain types of Railway Rolling Stock and the annex to this document contains images to show which type of rolling stock is intended by the descriptions contained in appendix 2 of the Model Rules.
7. “Light rail” means an urban and/or suburban rail transport system with a crashworthiness of C-III or C-IV (in accordance with EN 15227:2011) and a maximum strength of vehicle of 800 kN (longitudinal compressive force in coupling area); light rail systems may have their own right of way or share it with road traffic and usually do not exchange vehicles with long-distance passenger or freight traffic.

8. “Tram-train” means a vehicle designed for combined use on both a light-rail infrastructure and a heavy-rail infrastructure.
9. “Separate rail bogies connected to compatible road vehicles” are to be considered as an item of Railway Rolling Stock.



Annex

Figure 1 Examples of Combinations of Items of Railway Rolling Stock



Figure 2 Examples of One Item of Rolling Stock



Figure 3 Examples of the Types of Railway Rolling Stock included in Appendix 2

Locomotive



Figure 4 Shunter



Figure 5 Passenger Car



Figure 6 Control Car



Figure 7 Motor car



Figure 8 Car carriers



Figure 9 Light Rail



Figure 10 [Metro, etc.](#)



Figure 11 [Trams](#)



Figure 12 (Horse-drawn) Tram



Figure 13 Tram-trains - to follow



Figure 14 Freight wagons



Figure 15 Special vehicles, etc.



Figure 16 Heritage, etc.



Figure 17 Road Rail Vehicles



Figure 18 Shuttles at airports



Figure 19 Hyperloop pods



Figure 20 Monorail vehicles



Figure 21 Maglev vehicles



Guidance Notes on the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock

The Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock facilitate the financing and acquisition of railway rolling stock leasing to a reduced cost for those wishing to invest in the railways. The Model Rules lay down the methods and responsibilities for the affixing of the URVIS identifier to an item of railway rolling stock. These Guidance Notes provide non-binding guidance on the way parties may choose to implement the provisions in the Model Rules.

Information Service
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Telephone: +41(0)22 917 12 34
E-mail: unece_info@un.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org>