



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

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COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

3, rue de Varembé - CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

AND

The International Union of Railways (UIC)

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Foreword

IEC and UIC have decided to reactivate a cooperation aimed at the creation and publication of standards concerning the railway domain in accordance with their mutual institutional roles. This cooperation agreement describes roles, scope, methods and means of collaboration. Attached are the topics today foreseen and for which the collaboration is activated.

1. Preamble

1.1 The IEC is the leading global organization that publishes consensus-based International Standards and manages conformity assessment systems for electric and electronic products, systems and services, collectively known as electrotechnology.

The IEC is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1906. The IEC's members are the National Committees that appoint experts and delegates coming from industry, government bodies, associations and academia to participate in the technical and conformity assessment work of the IEC.

IEC publications serve as a basis for national and regional standardization and as references when drafting international tenders and contracts. From the point of view of the standard activities, the Standardization Management Board (SMB) has the task of supervision of the Technical Committees. The SMB is responsible for the setting-up and disbanding of TCs (Technical Committees) and SCs (SubCommittees), approval of their scopes; appointment of TC/SC chairmen and allocation of secretariats; allocation of standards work, timelines of standards production; approval and maintenance of the Directives; reviewing the need for and planning for IEC work in new fields of technology and maintenance of liaisons with other international organizations.

In particular IEC/TC9 (**Electrical equipment and systems for railways**) has the task to prepare International Standards within the field of rail which includes rolling stock, fixed installations,

management systems (including communication, signalling and processing systems) for railway operation, their interfaces and their ecological environment.

These standards cover railway networks, metropolitan transport networks (including metros, tramways, trolleybuses and fully automated transport systems) and magnetic levitated transport systems.

These standards relate to systems, components and software and they will deal with electrical, electronic and mechanical aspects, the latter being limited to items depending on electrical factors.

These standards deal with electromechanical and electronic aspects of power components as well as with electronic hardware and software components

1.2 The UIC is a worldwide professional association grouping Railway Companies (including railway undertakings and infrastructure managers) from around the world whose main business includes the operation of passenger and freight transport services. Working closely with partner organisations, it has considerable experience in standardisation within the rail sector through the production of voluntary standards that describe a range of system specifications and performance that support the design, construction, operation and maintenance of and interworking between systems, sub-systems and networks.

The UIC Headquarters is based in Paris and comprises over 200 member companies involved in operating and maintaining the rail networks in 6 regions of the world (Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle-East, North-America and South America).

The UIC's main goal is to work with the member companies, supporting the development of their business aims and objectives, so as to enhance technical cooperation in the field of rail transportation, to reduce barriers to system interworking, to develop support tools and processes to optimise the management of rail transportation at a variety of organisational levels and to harmonise the elements important for safe, efficient and effective system development.

The UIC has been involved in the preparation of voluntary railway standards for rail operators since its creation in 1922 – these are known today as “UIC standards”. UIC produces these standards as a result of studies and research projects undertaken by its working bodies, and/or upon request of member or other organisations.

2. The outline agreement

Standardisation is one of the most important aspects in developing an efficient, competitive and safe rail system and it is acknowledged that UIC publications as well as IEC standards are used on a system-wide basis.

IEC and UIC (hereinafter referred to as the Partners) agree to cooperate in the field of rail standardisation as follows.

2.1 IEC and UIC mutually recognise and respect the role played by each of them in the context of rail standardisation on the world stage.

a. In particular it is noted that the role of IEC/TC9 extends to the development of standards that are related to the design and production of rail systems, components and the associated sub-components.

b. The UIC role as the global association of the service providers (such as Infrastructure Managers and Railway Undertakings) is the provision of standards to facilitate the specification of system functionality, the functional interfaces and their integration into and operation of the live rail system.

2.2 In order to provide standards and normative tools designed to facilitate the market development of rail as a transport mode and the quality of the provided services, IEC and UIC agree to the principles contained in this Cooperation Agreement.

Taking into account the specificities of each organisation, this agreement wishes to express and recognize the complementarity of roles and partnerships that can be established between the two organisations.

In fact, IEC can benefit in the preparation of standards from the collaboration with UIC for the development of topics closely related to railway services, operations or maintenance.

On the other hand UIC will develop standards with the contribution of experts appointed by IEC.

For the purposes of implementing this agreement, the Partners consider that collaboration on the issues highlighted in the Annex as an appropriate place from which to start.

2.3 The Partners will mutually exchange the contents of the appropriate standards in order to provide a source reference for the relevant standards under preparation.

2.4 In so far as the Intellectual Property Rights and the maintenance of standards are concerned, these issues are covered under clause number 5.

The Partners agree that this Cooperation Agreement (CA) sets out the broad terms of the collaboration and that the specific *modus operandi* will be defined by the group described in clause 3.2.

3. Cooperation between the Partners

The Partners are complex but well-structured organisations from the point of view of the processes for the development of standards (drafting procedures, operational modalities of the drafting groups, approval of the documents, publications, etc.).

Within the IEC this is carried out by Working Groups (WG), Project Teams (PT) and Maintenance Teams (MT). These working groups are composed of experts in electrotechnology from all around the world.

The standards development inside the UIC is carried out by the different working groups.

The working groups are composed by the experts (coming from the UIC Members), a team Leader (coming from the UIC Members) and a secretary (coming from the UIC Members or from the UIC HQ staff). The working groups report to the competent Sector, which depends directly from the competent Forum. The UIC forums depend directly from the UIC General Assembly. There are many Sectors for each Forum and many working groups for each Sector. Each Forum has a Term of Reference.

The working groups received the mandate to develop a standard in writing from the competent Forum. They met on a regular basis, they draft minutes of each meeting and they report twice a year to the competent Sector.

Once a development of a standard is completed, it is approved first by the working group with the majority rule, which forward it for endorsement to the Sector, which sent it to the Forum for approval with the unanimity rule.

The approval of any UIC standards is given at the Forums' Plenary Session (twice a year): the voting right is defined in the Forums' Terms of Reference and in the UIC Statute.

With reference to the IEC cooperation agreements with external bodies, the rules prescribe that a Liaison type A (A-liaison) can be established to allow partners to make an effective contribution to the work of the Technical Committees.

The partners are given access to all relevant documentation, are invited to the meetings and may nominate experts to participate in the working groups.

3.1 The Partners agree to cooperate in the field of Railway standardisation performing the task with reference to the framework of the A-liaison (ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 "Procedures for the technical work").

3.2 In addition the following shall apply:

The Partners arrange a Strategic Liaison Group (SLG) with meetings hosted alternately by IEC and UIC on a 6-monthly basis between Officers of IEC/TC9 and UIC Standardisation Platform with the following tasks:

- i. Review of the areas of cooperation of the past years;
- ii. Explanation of the work programs between the Partners;
- iii. Identification of the areas, the priorities and the standardisation work of mutual interest keeping a cohesive system view;
- iv. Proposal for a Program of Work of mutual interest to the Partners;
- v. Development of a proposal to IEC and UIC for the *modus operandi* related to the development and maintenance of standards..
- vi. Reduction or scope redefinition of redundant or similar standards identified on one side IEC and/or UIC, and dedication of the resulting work item to develop one or more complementary international standard according to the rules of clause 2.1 a and b.

The review of the areas of cooperation in previous years will bring the added value of fostering a closer working relationship between the Partners.

Regarding the *modus operandi*, the working group in charge of drafting a given standard can be part of IEC or UIC according to advantages/opportunities.

3.3 The Partners mutually acknowledge their methods of working and the approval procedures of their standards

3.4 The Partners commit themselves to inform each other if specific issues are identified or difficulties are encountered during the development of a standard.

3.5 In case of a standard developed in collaboration between the Partners, the following phrase: "This *standard* has been developed in collaboration with ---- " shall be added to the Foreword of the given standard.

3.6 The Partners shall, whenever possible, ensure that none of their standards will contain elements in contradiction with the other Partner's standards.

Any such contradiction shall be identified through the SLG and justified accordingly or corrected at the first suitable opportunity.

4. Extracts of UIC and IEC standards

4.1 If needed, one Partner may request permission to quote extracts from the other Partner's standards. This process is managed by SLG in accordance with the rules of both Partners.

4.2 References of the source documents shall be stated within the relevant standard(s) in accordance with the rules of both Partners.

5. Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

5.1 Each document produced by one of the two Partners remains its intellectual property.

5.2 A commemorative copy of the standards produced in collaboration between the Partners shall be made available to the other Partner.

6. Duration and general

6.1 The general procedures for the management of this CA are as described in the previous chapters of this document.

6.2 This CA will have an unlimited duration. Either party has the right to cancel this CA at any time by giving 6 months notice in writing.

6.3 Disputes on a subject concerning the present CA shall be considered in the first instance at the regular SLG meeting and if necessary, in second instance, resolved by the General Secretary of IEC and by the UIC General Director of Services.



For IEC

Frans Vreeswijk

IEC General Secretary

*Accepted in principle
Fine tuning to come*



For UIC

Jean-Pierre Loubinoux

UIC Director General

*Accepted in principle
Fine tuning to come*

Annex

List of topics to start the collaboration (correct at April 8th 2014).

1. IEC 60050-811 and - 821 *International Electrotechnical Vocabulary*

Chapter 811 *Electric Traction*

Chapter 821 *Signalling and Security Apparatus for Railways*

2. UIC 556 *Information Transmission in the train (Train Bus)*

and

IEC 61375 series *Railway applications – Electronic Railway Equipment – Train Communication Network.*

3. IEC 62580 series *Railway applications – On board multimedia systems for railway*

and

UIC Human Rolling Stock Interface.

4. UIC 791-X series – *Overhead contact lines*

and

IEC 60913 - *Railway applications - Fixed installations - Electric traction overhead contact lines*

Note – This Annex will be maintained current by SLG.