

ERA ISSUES FIRST VEHICLE AUTHORISATION DECISION TODAY - SUCCESSFUL START OF THE NEW EUROPEAN PROCESSES

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The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) delivers first vehicle authorisation – three weeks after becoming European authorising entity for rail traffic in Europe.

In a historic step to break down barriers in Europe, a vehicle authorisation valid in multiple countries has been issued for the first time: the European Union Agency for Railways has granted the first conformity-to-type for thirty freight wagons for operation in all European countries.

'Thanks to our learning case programme prior to 16th June, and the excellent cooperation between ERA experts and the applicants before and prior to the authorisation process, we are well-prepared to efficiently manage the new applications', says Josef Doppelbauer, Executive Director of ERA, 'I'm proud to say that our processes have been running smoothly from day one'.

'ERA succeeded in taking the decision on this conformity-to-type authorisation well within the legal timeframe of 4 weeks. Considering that this first authorisation is a learning process for all parties involved, I congratulate the experts from the manufacturer and ERA to have managed this so well' adds Thierry Breyne, Head of the Planning and Approvals Delivery Unit at ERA.

In the first two weeks, ERA received more than 30 valid applications for vehicle authorisations and two applications for single safety certificates, involving most of the countries that have transposed the new legislation in 2019. ERA has assigned dedicated multilingual expert teams to assess each application.

About the EU Agency for Railways

The European Union Agency for Railways was established in Valenciennes (offices) and Lille (meeting facilities) in 2004. Its 170 employees 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

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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.”

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