Achieving International Technical and Legal Interoperability in Rail transport

African Railway Thursdays Webinar

November 26, 2020
What is OTIF / COTIF
Who applies COTIF
COTIF legal framework
OTIF and UIC
Examples of OTIF-UIC complementarity

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THE ORGANISATION
Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

50 MEMBER STATES
+1 ASSOCIATE MEMBER

3 WORKING LANGUAGES: FR/DE/EN

HEADQUARTERS: Berne, Switzerland

COTIF THE CONVENTION
COTIF Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail
1999

1st INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION

ENTRED INTO FORCE IN 1893

COTIF IS APPLIED ON 270,000 KM OF RAILWAY LINES

2011 | EU ACCESSED TO COTIF
VIDEO LINK

https://vimeo.com/349648465
If you have a question on membership and COTIF application, let us know in the chat box or send us an email to info@otif.org
COTIF 1999
Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail

Unofficial consolidated version

version 1.3.2019

COTIF: CONVENTION CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE BY RAIL

APP. A
CIV
Uniform Rules
The contract of carriage of passengers

APP. B
CIM
Uniform Rules
The contract of carriage of freight

APP. C
RID
Regulation
The carriage of dangerous goods

APP. D
CUV
Uniform Rules
Contracts of use of vehicles

APP. E
CUI
Uniform Rules
The contract of use of infrastructure

APP. F
APTU
Uniform Rules
Validation of Technical standards adoptions of UTPs

APP. G
ATMF
Uniform Rules
Technical admission of railway material

APP. H
EST
Uniform Rules
Safe operation of trains
COTIF legal framework

Neutrality and flexibility of OTIF’s legal system

OTIF’s legal system is applicable irrespective of national political, legal or economic system.
COTIF offers legal certainty for carriers and their customers

COTIF is applicable to international contracts of carriage for passengers and freight:

(CIV UR and CIM UR)

- different successive national carriers
  
or

- one carrier with or without involvement of substitute carriers

Full contractual freedom as regards to tariffs and pricing.
RID
Regulation Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods

- Appendix C to COTIF 1999
- Since 1893
- First restructured edition 1 July 2001
- 45 RID Contracting States (three Contracting States with suspended membership)
- Responsible OTIF Committee: RID Committee of Experts
- Revision every two years
Did you know that you do not have to apply all appendices of the Convention?

We would love to hear from you, which appendices are most relevant to you.

Let us know in the chat box or send us an email to info@otif.org
OTIF and UIC

**General Assembly Revision Committee**
+WG of Legal Experts

**Committee of Technical Experts**
+ WGTECH

**Working Groups on Technical Regulation and Standardisation**
- Passenger Services
- Vehicle Provisions as an Annex to the GCU
- Signaling /Telecoms
- Technical Harmonization of Rolling Stock
- Operations and Safety
- Sustainable Development (Environment...)
- Research and Innovation
- Standardisation
- Implementation of Telematic Applications for Freight (TAF)
- UIC Group of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

**Areas for cooperation**

**The Contract of International Carriage of Goods by Rail (CIM)**

**The Contract of International Carriage of Passengers by Rail (CIV)**

**Contracts of Use of Vehicles in International Rail Traffic (CUV)**

**Contracts of Use of Infrastructure in International Rail Traffic (CUI)**

**Technical Admission of Railway Material used in International Traffic (ATMF)**

**Uniform Technical Prescriptions applicable to Railway Material intended to be used in International Traffic (APTU)**

**Uniform Rules concerning the safe operation of trains in international traffic**

**Regulation concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID)**

**RID Committee of Experts**
+ Standing WG

**RID/ADR/AND Joint Meeting**
(OTIF+ UNECE)

**Training**

**Freight**

**Based on MoU between OTIF and UIC**
Examples of OTIF-UIC complimentarity

Partnership between UIC and OTIF aims:
to facilitate international transport by rail and to ensure effective harmonisation in the rail sector.

✓ OTIF provides the COTIF legal framework for international traffic by rail between 50 Member States.

✓ UIC is the professional association which represents the railway sector globally.

Example 1: Telematic applications / Digitalisation

OTIF provides legal requirements in form of UTP TAF (on the basis of the EU TSI), UIC provides implementing solutions such as common interface and central IT systems through Raildata.

Example 2: Contracts for use of wagons

OTIF provides legal requirements in form of CUV (Uniform Rules concerning the contract of use of vehicles), UIC with other Sector Representatives (UIP and ERFA) agree on the multilateral contract GCU (General Contract of Use for Wagons).
We are happy to help you get on track to legal and technical interoperability

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To learn more about OTIF and COTIF

www.twitter.com/OTIF_COTIF
www.linkedin.com/company/intergovernmental-organisation-for-international-carriage-by-rail-otif-
www.flickr.com/photos/otif_cotif

OTIF
Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires
Zwischenstaatliche Organisation für den internationalen Eisenbahnverkehr
Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

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