

Under the decision of the XXV Conference of General Directors of OSJD Railways, beginning from 2010, the following information on Vehicle Keeper Marking Register (VKM) will be available in two Languages (Russian and English), as a result of OSJD/OTIF/ERA cooperation.

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## **1. VKM Register**

In July 2007, an agreement between the OTIF Secretariat and ERA was reached. ERA and OTIF form together the "central body" specified in Annex P of the Technical Specifications for Interoperability SI OPE (Operation and Management) and publish a common list of registered VKMs on their websites. ERA register vehicle keepers who have their registered place of business in a State which is a Member of the EU or EEA. OTIF register vehicle keepers in the other OTIF Member States and – on a voluntary basis – even in the States that are not members of OTIF. The Guidelines for Registration of Vehicle Keeper Marking Code (VKM) are common to ERA and OTIF. They specify the setting up and administration of a joint register to hold all the records (identical) of railway vehicle keepers and their VKM codes according to Annex P of the TSI OPE in both organisations. An updated edition of the VKM list is available on the OTIF ([www.otif.org](http://www.otif.org)) and ERA ([www.era.europa.eu](http://www.era.europa.eu)) websites on the first Wednesday of each month.

The final publication of the VKM register on the OTIF website was the 48<sup>th</sup> issue on 5 March 2014. Subsequent issues will only be published on the ERA website. For the convenience of users, the OTIF website will provide a hyperlink to the ERA website.

## **2. Purpose and content**

The VKM is an international, unique alphanumeric code consisting of 2 to 5 letters. At present, the register contains more than 1700 VKM codes. The purpose of the register is to ensure the uniqueness of each VKM to allow the vehicle keeper to be identified in case of incidents or when empty freight wagons are returned according to keepers order. Use of the register is free of charge.

The VKM register contains public data which are

- the VKM as inscribed on the vehicle, which may contain diacritical signs or Cyrillic letters,
- the VKM to check uniqueness (without diacritical signs),
- full name of the keeper,
- country in which the keeper has his place of business and if available,
- his website address.

Additional information for administrative purposes includes a contact person for administrative information, office address, telephone number and name of the organisational unit responsible for vehicle management.

## **3. Registration process**

The keeper shall fill in an application for a new VKM, amendments or revocation. Keepers whose place of business is in a EU or EEA Member State submit their application to the National Safety Authority (NSA) of the country in which they have their place of business. The keepers of OTIF Member States which are not EU or EEA Member States submit their application to the competent national authority. The NSA/competent authority has the

obligation to check that applicable regulations have been complied with and in case of compliance, sends the application to ERA/OTIF indicating the date when the application was received from the keeper (for reasons of priority).

#### 4. Functions

Upon receiving the application ERA and OTIF check uniqueness against existing VKMs in the register and against applications, which ERA or OTIF may have received earlier, but which have not yet been assigned or published. The way this happens is that before updating the list of VKMs OTIF notifies new applications to ERA and vice versa. Following this check, a unique identification code is allocated to the keeper. The VKM register includes all the vehicles (locomotives, passenger carriages and freight wagons). The users are railway companies (infrastructure managers, railway undertakings), their customers, keepers and authorities. All the users are able to unequivocally identify the keeper from his VKM code that is marked on the vehicle.

The **Guidelines for Registration of Vehicle Keeper Marking Code (VKM)** are available on the OTIF website in all three official languages of OTIF

English; link:

[http://www.otif.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/otif\\_verlinkte\\_files/06\\_tech\\_zulass/05\\_notification\\_09/A\\_95-00\\_1.2009\\_e\\_VKM\\_Application\\_Guide\\_-\\_April\\_2009\\_.pdf](http://www.otif.org/fileadmin/user_upload/otif_verlinkte_files/06_tech_zulass/05_notification_09/A_95-00_1.2009_e_VKM_Application_Guide_-_April_2009_.pdf)

French; link:

[http://www.otif.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/otif\\_verlinkte\\_files/06\\_tech\\_zulass/05\\_notification\\_09/A\\_95-00\\_1.2009\\_f\\_VKM\\_Application\\_Guide\\_-\\_April\\_2009\\_.pdf](http://www.otif.org/fileadmin/user_upload/otif_verlinkte_files/06_tech_zulass/05_notification_09/A_95-00_1.2009_f_VKM_Application_Guide_-_April_2009_.pdf)

and German; link:

[http://www.otif.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/otif\\_verlinkte\\_files/06\\_tech\\_zulass/05\\_notification\\_09/A\\_95-00\\_1.2009\\_d\\_VKM\\_Application\\_Guide\\_-\\_April\\_2009\\_.pdf](http://www.otif.org/fileadmin/user_upload/otif_verlinkte_files/06_tech_zulass/05_notification_09/A_95-00_1.2009_d_VKM_Application_Guide_-_April_2009_.pdf)

OTIF and ERA will prepare updated versions of the existing Rules for registration of a Vehicle Keeper Marking Code (VKM)/ The document will be renamed “Application guide for Vehicle Keeper marking Code (VKM) register” and will be published on both the OTIF and the ERA websites.

Link to the latest edition of VKM register:

<http://www.era.europa.eu/Document-Register/Documents/IU-VKM-publiclist.xls>