

Amendments and additions to the GCU: Proposal sheet

Proposal for an amendment of Appendix 14 B GCU

1.- Expose the problem (with examples and, if possible, figures giving a measure of the scope of the problem):

In the axle changing facilities of the Traffic across the Pyrenees, damages on wheelsets can be observed because of the manner of transport and storage of the wheelsets. The axle changing facilities are not considered as workshops or maintenance providers and therefore they are not obliged to apply Appendix 10 of the GCU. Especially Appendix 10 D, point 1 is in the context with the Traffic across the Pyrenees relevant. In the whole railway sector, the handling of wheelsets has become a more important topic. Especially the storage and the transport of wheelsets has been regulated newly and more strictly. These changes have entered all relevant technical rules as well, such as the GCU (App. 1), the VPI maintenance guide and the DIN EN standards.

The aim is to avoid damages and corrosion on wheelsets in order to prevent consequential damages and costs.

Following an excerpt of technical rules where the above-mentioned handling of wheelsets is defined:

- VPI Maintenance Guide, Modul 04, Annex 17 Transport and Storage of wheelsets
- GCU Appendix 10 D transport and storage of parts
- DIN EN 15313, P. 4.2.4.5 requirements for handling and transport of new or overhauled wheelsets.

2.- Show what the GCU is lacking in this respect:

Appendix 14 B

- 1. General
- 1.1 The provisions of the GCU apply to wagons with interchangeable axles unless otherwise specified in this Appendix.

Here, a direct hint that Appendix 10 D point 1 GCU is mandatory for wheelset changing facilities as well, is missing.

Because of the lack of a corresponding reference to the mentioned measures for protection of wheelsets, the present treatment of wheelsets violates DIN EN 15313 and the acknowledged rules of technique in Europe.

The repeatedly occurring damages could lead to serious consequential damages on wheelsets.

3.- Explain why the problem can only be solved through the GCU contract:

The present definition of workshop in Appendix 10, preamble, is: "Workshops¹ = ¹ A workshop is a body comprising the

¹ A workshop is a body comprising the management, staff, installations and tools necessary for the execution of corrective and preventive maintenance on wagons and/or their component parts. Mobile units are considered to be workshops if they operate under the authority

4.- Outline why the problem should be solved as envisaged in the proposed amendment/addition:

Implementation of the requirements in accordance with the acknowledged rukes of technique and increase of safety in the railway traffic. Uniform application of the GCU Appendix 10 D in all GCU Appendices.



of a maintenance workshop or if they operate independently and meet the aforementioned conditions. "

This is why axle changing facilities do not feel obliged to apply the measures regarding the storage and transport of wheelsets.

For the appplication of Appendix 10, this definition is important and should not be changed.

The changes have to be made in Appendix 14.

5.- Describe how the proposed amendments or additions will help solve the problem:

RUs, axle changing facilities and ECMs can apply and fulfill their contractual and legal safety obligations.

6.- Assess the potential positive and negative impacts (on operations, costs, administration, interoperability, safety, competitiveness, etc.), using a scale from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high):

Costs: +3
Competitiveness: +5
Operations: +4
Interoperability: +4
Safety: +5

7. – Text proposal:

Changes / amendments in blue:

GCU Appendix 14

B - RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF WAGONS WITH INTERCHANGEABLE AXLES IN TRAFFIC ACROSS THE PYRENEES

1 General

After the existing point 1.7, a new point 1.8 shall be inserted:

1.8 For transport and storage of wheelsets in the wheelset changing facility the provisions of Appendix 10, Annex D apply.