



Department
for Transport

XXXXX
Engineering & Safety Director
The Chiltern Railway Company Limited
1 Admiral Way,
Doxford International Business Park,
Sunderland,
SR3 3XP

From the Minister for Rail
Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill
CBE

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: XXXXX
E-Mail: XXXXX

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

9 July 2025

Dear XXXXX,

The Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011 – Class 168 units

Regulation 45 of the Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011¹ (RIR 2011) makes it unlawful for a passenger rail vehicle to be used in service on the trans-European rail system in the UK after 31 December 2019 unless it complies with the Technical Specification for Interoperability - Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM TSI) set out in the Annex to Decision 2008/164/EC of the European Commission of 21 December 2007, or any amended version of it, or Commission Regulation 1300/2014 of the European Commission of 18 November 2014 which replaced it, or the National Technical Specification Notice on Persons of Reduced Mobility that replaced Commission Regulation 1300/2014 from 1 January 2021, or any variation of that NTSN or any NTSN which replaces it (and/or defined domestic accessibility standards²) except to the extent that:

- a) a derogation from part of the PRM TSI or relevant NTSN was granted under regulation 14 before 31 December 2020, or an

¹ SI 3066/2011

² These domestic accessibility standards include the Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001 or Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) Regulations 2010

exemption from part of it has been granted since that date under regulations 14 and 14A of RIR 2011;

- b) a determination that part of the PRM TSI or NTSN does not apply has been made under regulation 13(8) of RIR 2011; or
- c) a dispensation such that part of the PRM TSI or NTSN does not apply has been granted under Regulation 46 of RIR 2011.

This is a dispensation (effective from the date of this letter) made under regulation 46(4) of the Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011, granting that the vehicles listed in Annex A, which form the trains known as Class 168, need not comply with those parts of the Accessibility NTSN (ACC NTSN) or those parts of the Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) Regulations 2010 (RVAR 2010) Schedule 1 Part 1 listed in Annex B.

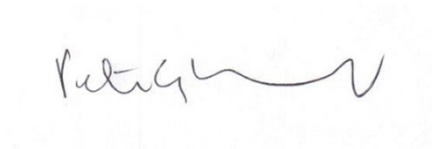
This follows consultation with the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC), and is subject to compliance with the following conditions:

1. The dispensation applies to operation of the vehicles by The Chiltern Railway Company Limited;
2. The Chiltern Railway Company Limited to obtain feedback and suggestions from communities affected by the non-compliances;
3. The Chiltern Railway Company Limited to ensure that information in exceptional operating or emergency circumstances is as accurate, available and accessible as possible to avoid inequality for passengers who cannot hear the audible announcements;
4. The Chiltern Railway Company Limited to propose cost effective improvements to the passenger information system;
5. The permission granted by this dispensation expires at 23.59 on 31 December 2030.

For the avoidance of doubt, a separate derogation or exemption made under point a) above or separate determination made under point b) above would be required for any vehicle listed in Annex A that undergoes an upgrade or renewal that requires an authorisation under RIR 2011 after this dispensation.

I have copied this dispensation to Eversholt Rail Leasing Limited as the owners of the vehicles listed in Annex A to bring this to their attention and to the ORR for their information.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hendy', is centered below the closing. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL

Annex A

Unit Number	Vehicle Numbers		
168111	58161	58461	58261
168112	58162	58462	58262
168113	58163	58463	58263

Annex B

ACC-NTSN	
4.2.2.7.3	Dynamic visual information
4.4.2.12	Rules for announcement of the final destination and the next stop
RVAR 2010 Sched 1 Part 1	
11(5)	Use of public address systems
11(6)	Use of public address systems