



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 Henty 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 Porterbrook Leasing Company 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 black ink, appearing to read "Paul Maynard", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL

Annex A

Unit Number	Vehicle Numbers			
168001	58151	58451	58651	58251
168002	58152	58452	58652	58252
168003	58153	58453	58653	58253
168004	58154	58454	58654	58254
168005	58155	58455	58655	58255
168106	58156	58456	58756	58256
168107	58157	58457	58757	58257
168108	58158	58458	58258	
168109	58159	58459	58259	
168110	58160	58460	58260	
168214	58164	58464	58264	
168215	58165	58465	58365	58265
168216	58166	58466	58366	58266
168217	58167	58467	58367	58267
168218	58168	58468	58268	
168219	58169	58469	58269	
168321	79301	50301		
168322	79302	50302		
168323	79303	50303		
168324	79304	50304		
168325	79305	50305		
168326	79306	50306		
168327	79307	50307		
168328	79308	50308		
168329	79399	50399		

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