



Department for Transport

XXXXXXXXXX

Head of Safety, Standards and Environment
Porterbrook Leasing Company Limited
Ivatt House
7 The Point
Pinnacle Way
Pride Park
Derby DE24 8ZS

Sam Caughey
Strategy and Planning Director,
Rail Services Group

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: RVA/0002/Class 168-0 PB

9 July 2024

Dear XXXXXXXXXX,

The Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011 – Class 168/0

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 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 168/0, need not comply with those parts of the NTSN-PRM listed in Annex B.

This follows consultation with DPTAC³.

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

³ The Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee

For the avoidance of doubt, a separate derogation or determination made under point a) or 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 the ORR for their information.

Yours sincerely,



Sam Caughey
Strategy and Planning Director,
Rail Services Group

Annex A

Unit Number	Vehicle Numbers			
168 001	58151	58651	58451	58251
168 002	58152	58652	58452	58252
168 003	58153	58653	58453	58253
168 004	58154	58654	58454	58254
168 005	58155	58655	58455	58255

Annex B

PRM-NTSN	Feature
4.2.2.1.1 para 2	Height of seatback handholds
4.2.2.2 Para (4)	Length of wheelchair space
4.2.2.2 Para (7)	Tip-up seats in a wheelchair space
4.2.2.2 Para (9)	Seats for companion to wheelchair user
4.2.2.3.2 Para (12)	Passenger doors audible alert
4.2.2.3.3 Para (4)	Height above floor level of controls for interior door
4.2.2.6 Para (1) and 7.3.2.4	Width between seats adjacent to the centre aisle for access to priority seats
4.2.2.6 Para (2)	Height above floor of headroom

4.2.2.7.3 Para (1)	Exterior display of information
4.2.2.7.3 Para (4) (8)	Interior display of information
4.2.2.7.4 Para (5)	Passenger audible information
4.2.2.9 Para (5)	Height, above external doorway step, of vertical handrails
4.2.2.11.1 Para (1) (2) (3)	Platform-train stepping distance
5.3.2.2 Para (1)	Height above floor level of door control for universal toilet
5.3.2.3 Para (2)	Width of door of standard toilet
5.3.2.3 Para (3)	Handrail in standard toilet
5.3.2.4 Para (2)	Space inside universal toilet
5.3.2.4 Para (5)	Manoeuvrability inside universal toilet
5.3.2.4 Para (5)	Clear space inside universal toilet
5.3.2.5 Para (1)	Baby changing table dimensions
5.3.2.5 Para (2)	Baby changing table minimum load
5.3.2.7 Para (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)	Internal and external information displays