



# Department for Transport

From the Minister of State  
**Lord Henty of Richmond Hill CBE**  
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XXXXXXXXXX  
Chief Operations Officer  
Transport for Wales Rail Limited  
3 Llys Cadwyn  
PONTYPRIDD  
CF37 4TH

5 November 2024

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX,

## **The Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011 – Transport for Wales Rail Ltd Class 153 Active Travel vehicles**

Regulation 45 of the Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2011<sup>1</sup> (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 the NTSN or any NTSN which replaces it (and/or defined domestic accessibility standards<sup>2</sup>) except to the extent that:

- a) a derogation from part of the PRM TSI or NTSN was granted under regulation 14 before 31 December 2020, or an exemption from part of it has been granted 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 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 need not comply with those parts of the PRM NTSN listed in Annex B.**

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<sup>1</sup> SI 3066/2011

<sup>2</sup> 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

**This follows consultation with the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC).**

**This dispensation is subject to the following condition:**

- 1) The dispensation applies to operation of the vehicles by Transport for Wales Ltd only for the purposes of cycle carriage when coupled to a compliant unit.

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 the ORR for their information.

Yours sincerely,



**Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**

**Annex A: Unit and vehicle numbers**

Unit Number	Vehicle Number
153507	52307
153528	52328
153531	52331
153552	57352
153568	57368
153572	57372

**Annex B:**

<b>PRM NTSN</b>	<b>Subject</b>
4.2.2.1.1 Para (2)	Height of seatback handholds
4.2.2.2 Paras (1)-(15)	Wheelchair Spaces
4.2.2.3.1 Para (5)	Door control button arrangement
4.2.2.3.2 Para (1)	External door width (No.2 End only)
4.2.2.3.2 Para (4) and (5)	Wheelchair accessible doorways
4.2.2.3.2 Para (12)	Audible warnings on door controls
4.2.2.5 Para (1), (3), (4)	Universal toilet
4.2.2.6 Para (1), (3), (4)	Wheelchair clearways
4.2.2.7.2 Para (3), (5)	Pictograms for universal toilet
4.2.2.7.3 (Para 1)	Bodyside visual passenger information
4.2.2.7.4 (Para 5)	PA spoken information volume
4.2.2.11.1 Para (1), (2), (3)	Step position for Vehicle Access and Egress
4.2.2.11.2 Para (2), (3), (5) ,6)	Width of external step board
4.2.2.11.2 (UK Special Case 7.3.2.6)	Passenger access steps
4.2.2.12 Para (1), (2)	Wheelchair portable ramp
5.3.2.4 Para (1) - (17)	Universal toilet features and dimensions
5.3.2.5 Para (1), (2), (3)	Baby changing table
5.3.2.6 Para (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)	Call for aid device
5.3.2.9 Para (1)-(3), (5)-(8), (10)	Wheelchair portable ramp