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Implementation of a high-speed railway, definition and features

International Railway Solution to be classified in volumes of UIC

VI - Traction

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The International Railway Solution

The International Railway Solutions (IRS) are structured in a General Part and in some eventual Application Parts.

The General Part is applicable worldwide, while the Application Parts are applicable to a specific railway application, based on a geographical or on a service implementation.

The eventual Application Parts may thus be added according to the current needs of the Railway Community.

Structure of the International Railway Solution:

IRS 60670: Implementation of a high-speed railway, definition and features

General part

CONTENTS

Foreword	1
Summary	3
Normative references	4
Terms and definitions	5

General Part

1 - Introduction	7
2 - Features	8
2.1 - Principles	8
2.2 - Technical Features.....	8
3 - Implementation process	13
3.1 - Emerging Phase.....	13
3.2 - Feasibility Phase	13
3.3 - Design Phase	14
3.4 - Construction Phase.....	14
3.5 - Operation Phase	15

Foreword

An International Railway Solution (IRS) is a document drawn up by consensus and applied on a voluntary basis which aims to facilitate and harmonize railway operation. IRSs are gradually replacing UIC leaflets.

Members of the International Union of Railways (UIC) participate in the creation of IRSs, of which they benefit in full. Furthermore, marketing to railway stakeholders contributes to the sharing and harmonization of good practices, in accordance with UIC's primary goal.

While IRSs do not have the force of law, they are created and published in a professional manner and with technical approval on the basis of UIC procedures, and have full technical legitimacy in the railway sector.

The "General application" section constitutes the heart of the IRS and contains the working group's expertise applicable in the broadest manner. The addition of a "Specific application" aims to cover factors specific to a region, a type of service, etc.

While the application of this IRS is optional, some provisions shall be implemented in all cases to ensure correct application and maintain the system's cohesiveness. Certain operational circumstances require that specific provisions be systematically applied by all users of the document.

For the purposes of understanding, the user acknowledges that the expression of:

- obligation indicates requirements to be respected in order to comply with the expertise expressed in the document (usually "shall" in the present);
- recommendation indicates options that are favourable but not essential (usually "should" in the present);
- permission indicates options that are recognized but without consequence (usually "may", "need not" in the present);
- capacity indicates possibilities from a technical standpoint and not permissions or probabilities (usually "can" in the present).

Obligation, recommendation and capacity can be expressed in the negative to indicate prohibiting, non-recommendation and incapacity.

If applicable, notably for the purposes of compliance with a UIC approval, passages that are recommended or mandatory for the cohesiveness of the system will be accompanied by the letters "R" and "MCS" respectively.

This IRS reflects the following UIC working group expertise:

High-Speed IRS working group
Intercity & High-Speed Committee

It integrates in full or in part the following UIC leaflets:

Not applicable. (There are no UIC leaflets integrated in IRS 60670)

It complements the following standards:

Not applicable. (There are no standards complemented by IRS 60670)

The following IRSs constitute a complementary series:

IRS 60671 Implementation of a High-Speed Railway, Emerging Phase
IRS 60672 Implementation of a High-Speed Railway, Feasibility Phase
IRS 60673 Implementation of a High-Speed Railway, Design Phase
IRS 60674 Implementation of a High-Speed Railway, Construction Phase
IRS 60675 Implementation of a High-Speed Railway, Operation Phase