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## **Electronic seat/berth reservation and electronic production of travel documents - General regulations**



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Second Issue.  
Recommended handling of time outs added  
(PSS October 2019)

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## General Application

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# Foreword

An International Railway Solution (IRS) is a document drawn up by consensus and applied on a voluntary basis which aims to facilitate and harmonise 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 harmonisation 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.

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");
- recommendation indicates options that are favourable but not essential (usually "should");
- permission indicates options that are recognised but without consequence (usually "may");
- capacity indicates possibilities from a technical standpoint and not permissions or probabilities (usually "can").

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:**

Passenger Services Solutions (PSS)

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

- *UIC Leaflet 918-0*

**It complements the following standards:**

- *IRS 90918-01: Electronic reservation of seats/berths and electronic production of travel documents - Exchange of messages*

**The following IRSs constitute a complementary series:**

- *IRS 90918-0*
- *IRS 90918-1*

## Executive summary

*IRS 90918-0* contains the general regulations for the electronic reservation of seats/berths and the electronic production of travel documents. It is supplemented by the following IRS and leaflets:

- *IRS 90918-1* which deals with the procedures for exchanging reservation messages,
- Depreciated: *UIC Leaflet 918-2* which describes the standard applicable to all the transport documents produced electronically.
- Depreciated: *UIC Leaflet 918-3* which describes the standard for home print tickets.
- *IRS 90918-8* which describes the standard applicable to ticket layouts.
- *IRS 90918-9* which describes the standard applicable to digital security elements for tickets.

The regulations contained in these leaflets enable a railway undertaking (RU) to reserve seats/berths in an inventory which is managed by another RU and to issue travel documents (in particular reservation tickets and combined tickets) produced electronically from data transmitted by the electronic system of another RU.

## Field of application

This IRS is applied in the following fields:

- Interface between Railways reservation system/inventory,
- Electronic seat/berth reservation,
- Electronic production of travel documents.

## Reference documents

The following documents are cited in this IRS or strongly support its requirements and recommendations:

### 1. International Railway Solution (IRS)

#### International Union of Railways (UIC)

- [1] *IRS 30301: Accountancy regulations for international passenger traffic*, 1st edition, December 2019
- [2] *IRS 90918-1: Electronic reservation of seats/berths and electronic production of travel documents - Exchange of messages*, 1st edition, April 2019
- [3] *IRS 90918-8: Layout for electronically issued rail passenger tickets*, 1st edition, March 2019
- [4] *IRS 90918-9: Digital security elements for rail passenger tickets*, 1st edition, February 2019

### 2. UIC Leaflets

#### International Union of Railways (UIC)

- [5] *UIC Leaflet 171: Regulations governing production of reservation lists*, 7th edition, July 2002
- [6] *UIC Leaflet 917-5: Description of the HERMES system*, 3rd edition, June 2019
- [7] *UIC Leaflet 918-2: Layout for electronically issued transport documents on secured paper - Rail Combined Ticket 2 (RCT2) and Rail Credit Card Sized Ticket (RCCST)*, 7th edition, March 2014 (*UIC Leaflet 918-2* is being partially replaced by *IRS 90918-9*)
- [8] *UIC Leaflet 918-3: International Rail Ticket for Home Printing*, 1st edition, May 2007 (*UIC Leaflet 918-3* is being partially replaced by *IRS 90918-9*)

## Abbreviations and Symbols

|             |                                                                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CIT</b>  | International Rail Transport Committee                                                      |
| <b>MIRT</b> | Manual for International Rail Tickets                                                       |
| <b>RCF</b>  | Accounting and Financial Regulations (Sector of the UIC Economics, Finance and Environment) |
| <b>RCF1</b> | Accounting and Financial Regulations - Passenger Traffic Working Group                      |
| <b>RS</b>   | Reservation System                                                                          |
| <b>RU</b>   | Railway Undertaking                                                                         |
| <b>SCIC</b> | Special Conditions for International Carriage                                               |
| <b>SMPS</b> | Convention concerning the international carriage of passengers by rail                      |

# Concepts, terms and definitions

The subject of the glossary below is: vocabulary to describe IRSs

**1. Allocating RS**

Reservation system which provides the services to allocate and cancel places.

**2. Allocating RU**

Railway undertaking which manages the services provided by the allocating reservation system and is responsible for the accounting with the issuing RU. Synonym: Attributing RU.

**3. Issuing RU**

Railway undertaking managing the issuing office.

**4. Requesting RS**

Reservation system requesting a reservation.

## **Electronic seat/berth reservation and electronic production of travel documents - General regulations**

# **General Application**

# 1 – General

## 1.1 – General comments on the leaflet

The UIC regulations regarding seat/berth reservation and the electronic production of travel documents consist of the following parts:

- *IRS 90918-0*, General regulations,
- *IRS 90918-1*, Exchange of booking messages,
- depreciated *UIC Leaflet 918- 2*, Travel documents (replaced by *IRS 90918 - 8* and *IRS 90918-9*),
- depreciated *UIC Leaflet 918-3*, Home print tickets (replaced by *IRS 90918-8* and *IRS 90918-9*),
- *IRS 90918-8*, Layout for electronically issued rail passenger tickets,
- *IRS 90918-9*, Digital security elements for rail passenger tickets.

(see Reference documents - page 5)

The regulations contained in these IRS enable a railway undertaking (RU - see [Abbreviations and Symbols - page 6](#)) to reserve seats/berths in an inventory that is managed by another RU and to issue travel documents produced electronically from data transmitted by the electronic system of another RU.

In view of the need for interoperability, these regulations must be observed by all RUs that want to connect their electronic system with that of other RUs to deal in interoperable passenger services.

It is up to each RU to decide which services are offered for non-interoperable traffic.

In the interoperable area the services offered are divided into "mandatory" and "optional" services:

- the services that are specified as mandatory must be offered on the sales terminals/terminals of all reservation systems (RS - see [Abbreviations and Symbols](#)) as specified in the regulations of this leaflet, and even by members, who do not hold these services in their system;
- the services that are specified as optional are those for which the offer remains optional on the sales terminals/terminals. RSs which decide to offer the "optional" services must, however, carry them out in accordance with the requirements of this leaflet.

The table below lists the current mandatory and the optional services (for seat/berth reservations).

| Services that can be reserved                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>M</b> (mandatory) /<br><b>O</b> (optional) /<br><b>C</b> (conditional) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Seats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Individuals                                                                                                                                                                          | M                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Combination of persons                                                                                                                                                               | M                                                                         |
| Couchettes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Individuals                                                                                                                                                                          | M                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Combination of persons                                                                                                                                                               | M                                                                         |
| Sleeper berths                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      | O                                                                         |
| Meals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At seat</li> <li>• In dining car</li> </ul>                                                                                                 | O                                                                         |
| Accompanied car trains                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Night accompanied car trains (with couchette or sleeping cars)</li> <li>• Day accompanied car trains - Unaccompanied car service</li> </ul> | O                                                                         |
| Ferries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passengers - Vehicles</li> <li>• Vehicles</li> </ul>                                                                                        | M                                                                         |
| <b>Further services</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                           |
| Information on the available services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                      | O                                                                         |
| Price information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                      | O                                                                         |
| <b>IRT simple price information (booking information / cancellation information in Element 11 of IRS 90918-1):</b><br><br><b>The implementation of this service is optional, but an allocating railway can define this service to be used mandatory by an issuing railway. The allocating railway has to announce this within an appropriate time frame of approx. 2 years for implementation by issuing railways.</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>C</b>                                                                  |
| Travel documents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                      | O                                                                         |

## **1.2 – Definition of the use**

### **1.2.1 – Definition of international traffic as far as reservation is concerned**

All reservations which are dealt with by more than one RU or which involve a journey or a settlement which affects more than one RU are considered to belong to international traffic.

### **1.2.2 – Travel documents**

Applies to travel documents for the domestic services of an RU (sectional coupons), NRT tickets (see [Abbreviations and Symbols - page 6](#)) and IRT tickets (combined ticket including reservation).

## 2 – Reservations in trains

### 2.1 – Principles

#### 2.1.1 – Trains

##### 2.1.1.1 – Management of the places on offer

Each RS manages the full inventory of places in the trains and through coaches associated to this reservation system.

If a reservation system is associated with an territory, the default assumption is that this reservation system manages all trains which run - either for the full route or for a part of the trains route - on its associated territory. In case that some of these trains are not managed by this reservation system, the reservation system provides the routing information to locate the correct reservation system by sending an - alternative proposal other RS - reply.

The description of the places available is contained in the "reservation lists" of the carriers, the compilation of which is governed by *UIC Leaflet 171* [5]. The lists describe the services on offer for a given period and indicate in particular:

- the time when electronic reservation in trains is open expressed in calendar months,
- the time when the electronic reservation system closes.

Reservation in trains can be available, recommended or mandatory.

Each RU shall determine the trains included in the reservation procedure. All sales offices of the RUs may sell these places.

A certain number of seats/berths are not released for reservation by the sales offices if they are required for i.E.:

- service purposes,
- disabled passengers,
- VIPs,
- passengers without reservations.