



RIS-8273-RST issue 1

Assessment of Compatibility of Rolling Stock and Infrastructure -Gauging and Stepping Distances

Briefing note

Background

The platform-train interface (PTI) is a significant risk factor for passenger safety and critical for trains to be physically compatible with platforms, so there need to be effective measures to control the relative positioning of train footsteps and platform edges.

What is it about?

RIS-8273-RST sets out the compatibility process for checking gauge clearance and for assessing stepping distances; this is part of the route compatibility assessment in RIS-8270-RST.

RIS-8273-RST replaces GERT8273 as the compatibility process is no longer in scope of a Railway Group Standard.

A route compatibility check is required when a relevant change takes place. This might be when a structure or platform is built or modified, when a new, or cascaded, fleet of trains is introduced on a route or when speeds or cant deficiencies are changed. The check ensures that the risks of gauge 'fouls' or of excessive platform to train stepping distances are understood and managed.

What has changed?

The technical processes and requirements for checking gauge compatibility and assessing stepping distances are not changed. Rationale has been added to the requirements to explain the 'why' as well as the 'what'. Additional guidance

has also been provided, some taken from the previous Guidance Note (GEGN8573), some from the findings of R&D project T1166 '*Minimising the impact of 'high and tight' platforms on the overall PTI step/gap dimensions*' and some specially developed, particularly around the assessment of stepping distances. Information on gap-fillers, either mounted on the vehicle or on the platform, has been transferred from RIS-7016-INS.

What are the benefits?

The total benefit for the change is estimated at approx. £1.5M over 5 years and this document is a key part of the process. Improvement to the management of the PTI has the potential to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls and to improve performance by reducing dwell times.

Who is it for?

The route compatibility assessment is required whenever a change is made to infrastructure, rolling stock or operations. The RIS is therefore relevant to Infrastructure Managers and Railway Undertakings as well as project teams that may be working on the infrastructure.