

Summary of ERA's Safety Alerts IT tool

Scope and Objective

ERA's safety alerts IT tool allows to facilitate the exchange of information among the relevant railway actors (not including national or state bodies and authorities) who identify or are informed of a safety risk relating to defects and construction non-conformities or malfunctions of technical equipment, including those of structural subsystems.

The objective of this transparent common European database of alerts is to inform railway actors about the existence of such risks. Quickly sharing information about new or increased significant risks can allow also other actors to revise and improve their own risk management methods and avoid accidents.

Users

This tool facilitates quick sharing platform of information among railway undertakings, infrastructure managers, entities in charge of maintenance and all other actors having a potential impact on the safe operation of the Union rail system, including manufacturers, maintenance suppliers, keepers, service providers, contracting entities, carriers, consignors, consignees, loaders, unloaders, fillers and unfillers. Each alert is attributed to its reporter.

Obligations

The use of ERA's Safety Alerts IT tool is voluntary. However, the new Article 4 paragraph 5 of the recast of Railway Safety Directive (expected to come into force in 2016) foresees mandatory obligations for mentioned users to exchange of a safety risk relating to defects and construction non-conformities or malfunctions of technical equipment, including those of structural subsystems, among the relevant railway actors.

When

As soon as possible after detection of the defect, including out of business hours.

What

You should report information about hazards that, in your own judgement and in accordance with the policies of your own organization:

- Relate to defects and construction non-conformities or malfunctions of technical equipment, including those of structural subsystems
- The hazard, event or information is novel or unexpected and therefore the related risk is likely to be poorly controlled
- The related risk, if not controlled, has the potential to lead to an accident or incident involving serious injury or 1 or more fatalities
- The related risk is relevant for more than 1 actor

How

One-step approach: Users publish directly their alert – no entity verifies the content of the alert. The Agency accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to the information or the content of a safety alerts and/or the comments related to them.

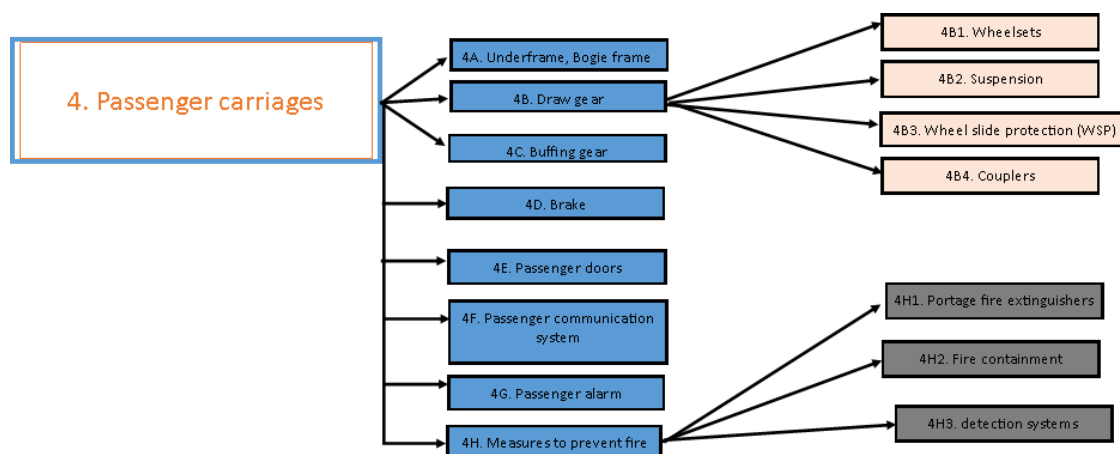
Specification

IT platform which has/is

- Mobile devices' friendly layout and functionality and the app (a little bit later)
- Registration will be managed and approved by ERA
- Layout and Reporting categories available in English and 25 (EU and EFTA) languages (user selects which language in addition to English they would like to use)
- Ability to report safety alerts according to pre-define categories (at the moment only in line with TSIs due to language/translation problems, however ERA will look further on possibilities to establish categorization of events according to CEN/CENELEC standards, and in particular EN 15380)
- Ability to provide supporting documents, including photos
- Ability to mark the Safety Alert on an Open map (open street map)
- Ability to save the draft alert to modify it later
- Ability to create, change/amend safety alerts
- Generating filtered notifications to users by e-mail, based on their pre-selection of categories of interest
- Ability to leave comments on published alerts
- Option for Users to report simple, personal risk assessment and view others' risk assessment by category of User
- Ability to raise the alert to the attention of the Joint Network Secretariat
- Ability to search by key word (s), categories, countries, date, system and other filters
- Designed that the user cannot delete the alert. ERA may deactivate (hide) the alert (in the servers for 5 years for legal backup)
- Ability to see all alerts published by anyone in the system
- Ability for each user to see only his or her draft and published alerts. Choice of deletion of drafts and editing, as well as publishing.

The Agency is also exploring possibilities to exchange information with other systems managed by the Agency such as ECVVR, RINF, ERADIS and etc. and external systems through web-services e.g. NIR-online (UK). These functionalities will not be available for the first release of the system.

Example of categorization based on TSIs – terms to be available in drop down list and in 25 languages



The same exercise is available for other type of RST, INF, CCS, ENE