



Eisenbahn-Bundesamt



*Inspectie Verkeer en Waterstaat*

# Trains across the Dutch-German border

The co-operation of  
EBA & IVW-Rail

Brussels, July 13th, 2006

**Once upon a time .....**

**.... railway companies knew no boundaries**

The much discussed "Iron Rhine" .....

.... starting in Antwerp

.... was operated by a Belgian railway company

.... that transited through the Netherlands

.... going into the German Ruhr area

all on its own rails

And there were many similar situations

## Until recently

### UIC 471-1 organised operations

- basically: mutual acceptance, under localised conditions
- long-standing, well understood practices
- detailed practice, agreed per line
- co-operation between partners
- but only for the incumbents

## The NL - D border today

- 3 main border stations NL - D:  
Bad Bentheim (D), Emmerich (D), Venlo (NL)
- 2 secondary lines, with regional passenger trains
- Two very special cases
- And many train operators: some 20 to 30 regularly cross the border, independently or in co-operation with partners

# Agreements and practices between NL and D

- 2004 - for drivers operating to foreign border station
- 2005 - for drivers operating beyond foreign border station
- 2006 - for mutual acceptance of workshops
- 2006? - for mutual approval of vehicles
  - mutual approval of safety certification
- 2007? - co-operation for safety certification of border traffic

## **2004 – For drivers operating to foreign border station (NSA)**

*Description of practice fitting within existing national rules*

- Full acceptance of competence for home country
- Only minimum knowledge for operating into border station
- Checked according to home country practice
- Supervised by home country NSA

## **2005 - For drivers operating beyond foreign border station (NSA)**

### *Description of interpretation of national rules*

- Full acceptance of competence for home country
- Knowledge of national safety and operating rules of the foreign country
- Checked according to foreign country practice
- Supervised by foreign country NSA

## **2006 - For mutual acceptance of workshops (NSA)**

*Agreement to accept the other NSA's evaluation*

- Both NSA's use similar requirements
- Both NSA's use similar methods for evaluation
- Differences, but not essential - accepted
- Mutual support and exchange of information between NSA's

## **2006? - For mutual approval of vehicles** (Ministry)

*Invitation by D to conclude agreement D-NL,  
similar to agreement D-F*

- First meeting to be held this month

## **For mutual acceptance of safety certification (NSA)**

*Not formal, but in practice*

- NL NSA accepts that operator is already active in D under supervision of German NSA
- NL audit focuses on NL-specific elements ("part B") with only limited check for "part A-like" elements
- Present D requirements comparable to "part B"

*To transpose fluently in full implementation of  
2004/49*

## **Not between NSA's, but between D and NL IM's**

*Agreement for each individual line between the border stations*

- successor of old agreements under UIC 471-1
- recently modernised as strictly an agreement between IM's
- handling technical and operational issues
- fits into system of "local safety rules" under TSI OPE

## Two special cases beyond the ordinary

- Bentheimer Eisenbahn (since 1910, freight only)
  - Enschede - Gronau (reopened 2004 for passenger traffic; close co-operation of NSA's for approval of train operators and infra)
- > Dutch parts of both railway lines operated according to German legislation and rules, by German train operators under control of German signalmen.

## A topic for consideration

The "short hop" to the foreign border station by less regular operators

- Train operators not always fully aware of all formalities
- Many are still used to the way it always went
- Incumbent and new operators equally involved

## **Wish, when deemed useful by those involved**

A simplified procedure for such "short hops"

- Not yet researched and not yet tried-out
- Involves both NSA's plus IM of the border station
- Single, focused information package from IM?
- Simplified access agreement, allocation etcetera?
- Certification and supervision shared by NSA's?

To be researched! - and tried out?