



Procedures for International Late Path Request Management

Appendix to the RNE Process Handbook for International Path Allocation for
Infrastructure Managers

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Version history

Version	Date	Description
0.1	17 January 2018	Document created by Philipp Koiser (re-modeling of the previous “Procedures for International Late Path Request Management”)
0.2	23 February 2018	Inclusion of remarks by TTSG (13 February 2018)
0.3	15 March 2018	Inclusion of remarks by S&TT WG (5 March 2018)
1.0	18 May 2018	Approved by the RNE GA (16 May 2018)

1. Introduction and scope of this document

This handbook describes the process by which applicants may request and obtain international paths for the next annual timetable; in particular for the phase starting after the second Monday in April and ending eight weeks or more (according to the calendar agreed each year) before the new timetable starts. This phase is the so-called period for “**Late path requests**” and it is part of capacity management for the preparation of the annual timetable.

Initial requests for international paths in the annual timetable are to be made by the second Monday in April at the latest. By doing so, these path requests will be treated by Infrastructure Managers and Allocation Bodies (IM/AB) according to Articles 44 - 47 of the European Directive 2012/34/EU. These requests have a lower priority than initial requests for paths made on time. IMs/ABs have to agree on allocation rules for international late path requests.

2. Reference documents

This handbook follows the principles set down in the

- European Directive 2012/34/EU
- RNE Process Handbook for International Path Allocation

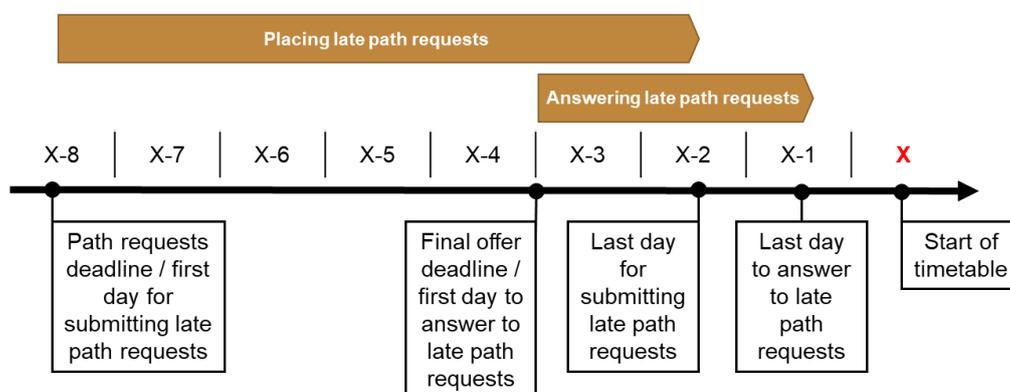
3. Path requests

3.1 Period for placement of path requests

The European Directive 2012/34/EU does not describe specifically the period after the path request deadline (second Monday in April). For this reason, it has been agreed to describe it as a part of capacity management for the preparation of the annual timetable.

All requests coming after the path request deadline until at least 8 weeks (according to the calendar agreed each year) before the start of the new timetable are dealt within the so-called **Late path request period**.

Late path request period (X-8 to X-1)



3.2 Path request system

For best results, it is strongly recommended that applicants use the Path Coordination System PCS (Internet-based communication system for the optimization of international train path coordination) and include all requested information.

PCS helps to ensure that the path request is valid for the whole journey. For applicant groups, it allows each member to confirm the path request and/or agree on it and share responsibility for the path request.

3.3 Preparation of requests

Applicants prepare the path request, which they must harmonise together. This is the precondition for IM/AB acceptance. A request consists of one path for the next annual timetable with the same origin and destination point at all times, and with the same train parameters.

The path request must provide all mandatory data which are specified in PCS. In case it is not possible to fill in all mandatory fields, it is recommended to ask the respective IM/AB for information before placing the path request.

RUs/applicants may also use a catalogue path for their path request. The catalogue of train paths is intended as an aid for preparing applications for paths. However, there is no guarantee that a request for a path from the catalogue can be given a positive response in the allocation process, as the catalogue path requested may already have been allocated for an initial path request submitted on time.

3.4 Submitting the path request

The PCS process is described in the “PCS Documentation” (<https://cms.rne.eu/pcs/pcs-documentation>). The IM/AB receiving the request (leading IM/AB) will be in charge of the communication with the applicant that has applied for the path.

3.5 Constructing and coordinating “Late path requests”

The IM/AB (leading IM/AB) will check the consistency of the request, designates the other IM/AB involved in the path request and releases the path elaboration. In case the request is not consistent, it might be rejected by the leading IM/AB – who should always explain why it has been rejected. If the request does not provide enough information for path construction, the leading IM/AB will ask the applicant to provide the missing data.

Late path requests take a lower priority than initial requests for paths which have been made on time – this means before the second Monday in April. Therefore, these requests will be treated by the IMs/ABs as soon as they have fulfilled all the requirements for the initial requests.

The IMs/ABs work on the request for their respective parts using available sections of catalogue paths whenever possible, as well as spare capacity. The leading IM/AB must inform the

RU/applicant as soon as it becomes aware that a train path is not available. If possible, the IM/AB will provide an alternative proposal.

The IMs/ABs also need to take into account infrastructure availability and check it with their partners. Infrastructure availability may be reduced due to temporary capacity restrictions (TCRs). This work needs to be fully integrated into the process of harmonisation. Appropriate communication between IM/AB and applicant must take place (e.g. alternative proposals).

3.6 Path offer

IMs/ABs harmonise the international path offer together by taking any necessary coordination initiatives.

Once the answer has been harmonised, the leading IM/AB is in charge of sending the harmonised and consistent offer – with remarks if necessary. Remarks may consist of an indication regarding temporarily uncertain times depending on infrastructure availability (TCRs). The path offer will be transmitted through PCS.

Offers for late path requests are not given before final answers for initial path requests submitted before the second Monday in April have been provided, which means after the deadline “final answer to applicants” in the second half of August. The last possible date for submitting path offers to applicants for late path requests is one month before timetable change (X-1). Any possible restrictions regarding dates or deadlines will be published in the national Network Statement (e.g. in cases where the offer could not be given as soon as possible).

3.7 Path acceptance

If all RUs/applicants agree with the offer, the leading applicant sends a formal acceptance notification, by using the relevant function in PCS. The applicants' acceptance should be sent within 5 working days of receipt of the path offer given the short amount of time left until the date of the timetable change. If the RUs/applicants do not agree with each other on the path offer, any corresponding remark will be treated as far as possible in the final answer. The IM/AB will propose an alternative; however, if “No alternatives” are possible, the RUs/applicants will have to prepare a new request. That means that the whole process starts again at the beginning with the placing of a completely new (late) path request. If RUs/applicants do not send an answer within 5 working days, the path offer will be treated in the way described in the Network Statement of the IM/AB.

3.8 Path allocation

Formal path allocation is a legal act. For the time being, this will remain a national process and contracts will be delivered IM/AB by IM/AB. If a path alteration is triggered, the same process as described in the document “...” will be applied.

Each Infrastructure Manager/Allocation Body has set up specific contact points (One-Stop-Shop, or OSS) to ensure an efficient handling of the international path requests.

Contact details: <http://www.rne.eu/organisation/oss-c-oss/>