

Application to the Office of Rail Regulation for approval of a freight track access contract under section 18 of the Railways Act 1993

1. Introduction

This form should be used when making an application to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for directions under section 18 of the Railways Act 1993 for a new track access contract. Section 18 provides for ORR to approve track access contracts between those seeking the right to use a railway facility, and the facility owner, when both parties have agreed the terms of the contract. This form should be completed up to section 7.5 before carrying out a pre-application consultation to inform potentially affected parties of the proposed contract. Following this consultation, the remainder should be completed before applying to ORR under section 18.

This form sets out our standard information requirements for considering such applications. It cross-refers throughout to our criteria and procedures (C&Ps)¹ and, where appropriate, to the Industry code of practice for track access application consultations (the Code of Practice)¹. The C&Ps explain the process and timing for our consideration of access applications and discuss the issues we will need to consider. Applicants should use the published model freight track access contract as their starting point when drafting the contract they would like². Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the C&Ps and the Code of Practice before making an application.

It is very important that the application is made in good time and prospective applicants are strongly advised to read (and if necessary take advice on) the procedures which are laid out in the Railways Act 1993 and the C&Ps in this respect. We will be happy to discuss prospective applications.

A copy of this form, and our model freight track access contract, can be accessed electronically and downloaded via the ORR website at www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

C&P para(s)

2. The application

2.1 Title of proposed contract:

2.2 Contact details (Company and named individual for queries):

<u>Facility Owner</u>	<u>Beneficiary</u>
Company:	Company:
Contact individual:	Contact Individual:
Job title:	Job title:
Address:	Address:
Telephone number:	Telephone number:
Fax number:	Fax number:
E-mail address:	E-mail address:

¹ *Criteria and procedures for the approval of freight track access contracts: third edition*, Office of Rail Regulation, May 2006 and *Industry code of practice for track access application consultations*, both available at <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.204>.

² *Model Freight Track Access Contract*, Office of Rail Regulation, December 2005, available at <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/doc/freightmodcontract-dec05.DOC>.

2.3 Licence and Railway Safety Case/Safety Certificate

Please state whether the applicant intends to operate the services itself or have them operated on its behalf.

3.9-3.15

Please state whether the proposed operator of the services:

- (a) holds a valid train operating licence under section 8 of the Act or an exemption under section 7; and
- (b) has an accepted Railway Safety Case under the Railways (Safety Case) Regulations 2000 or a Safety Certificate under the Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006.

If the answer to (a) or (b) is no, please state the point which that person has reached in their obtaining of the licence or exemption and Railway Safety Case or Safety Certificate (as the case may be).

3. The proposed contract

3.1 Executive summary

Please provide an executive summary of the proposed contract. This should cover the services, the commercial terms, and the applicant's reasons for seeking the contract in the terms proposed. The summary in this section should also explain (here or by cross-reference to the answers in the sections below):

3.23

- where there is an existing agreement in respect of the services in question, any differences between the existing agreement and the proposed contract (e.g. service characteristics, routes, intermediate points, rolling stock, commercial terms etc); 3.54
- any respects in which the proposed contract contains bespoke provisions departing from the model freight track access contract and the charging, performance and restrictions of use regimes in the model freight track access contract; and 2.50-2.51
6.2-6.3
- any material safety risks that have been identified arising from the proposed contract and the arrangements for their control and mitigation (by reference to the provisions of the facility owner's and operator's Railway Safety Cases or Safety Certificates). 4.9-4.11

3.2 Departure from ORR's model freight track access contract

Please set out here, with reasons, any areas where the drafting of the proposed contract omits, amends or adds to ORR's model freight track access contract (as appropriate, cross-referencing to the answers below). Where the change is one that we have invited through the model contract and is relatively self-explanatory (e.g. where the name of the operator has been added in the appropriate place) you may wish to confirm that this change has been made to give effect to the contract. Wherever the proposed contract contains a new process (e.g. a self-modification provision), we will wish to see a flowchart illustrating that the process is robust, internally consistent and leaves no loose ends.

2.50-2.51
6.2-6.3

3.3 Duration of contract

Please indicate the commencement date sought for the proposed contract, and provide justification for the proposed duration (in particular, referring to ORR's long-term access contracts policy³ where contracts would be for longer than five years).

4.69-4.75

³ *Long-term access contracts: final conclusions*, Office of Rail Regulation, June 2005 available at <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/240.pdf>.

4. The expression of access rights and the consumption of capacity

4.1 Benefits

Please set out what specific benefits will result from the proposed contract. In particular, please describe any new rights sought or significant changes in the pattern of services, their benefits to freight customers and their impact on existing operators.

4.31-4.36

4.2 Congested infrastructure

Please state whether the part(s) of the network to which this application relates have been declared congested by Network Rail, under regulations 23-25 of the Railways Infrastructure (Access and Management) Regulations 2005.

4.79-4.80

4.3 Adequacy

Please set out to what extent and by what process (if any) the applicants have satisfied themselves that there is sufficient network capacity for the levels of rights for services in the proposed contract, and the implications for overall network performance and the facility owner's maintenance and renewal activities.

4.12-4.36

4.4 Level 1 rights

Please state to what extent the level 1 rights in the proposed track access contract are required to service freight haulage contracts currently held by the operator and how the length of these contracts compare with the length of the proposed track access contract. Where rights are not proposed to be used fully, please provide a justification for why we should approve them as requested.

4.37-4.40

4.5 Level 2 rights

Please state to what extent the level 2 rights in the proposed track access contract are required to service freight haulage contracts currently held by the operator and how the length of these contracts compare with the length of the proposed track access contract. Where rights are not proposed to be used fully, please provide a justification for why we should approve them as requested.

4.37-4.40

4.6 Level 3 rights

Please comment on the extent to which the operator expects to use the level 3 rights in the proposed contract. In particular, the operator should state whether the rights requested are seasonal i.e. for 3 months each year, or whether they will be used occasionally e.g. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

4.37-4.40**4.7 Cordon caps**

Please explain any changes to existing cordon caps and/or whether any new cordon caps are proposed.

4.63-4.66**4.8 Flexing rights**

Please provide a rationale for any departure from the default +/-30 minutes flex provision.

2.43-2.46**4.48-4.49****4.9 Protected rights and obligations**

Please describe the extent to which the proposed contract contains any protected rights and/or protected obligations (i.e. protection from subsequent amendment of the Network Code under Condition C8), and explain the justification for the form and extent of protection sought by reference to ORR's criteria.

4.67-4.68**4.10 Other limitations on flexibility**

Please describe the extent to which the proposed contract contains any other restrictive obligations on the facility owner (e.g. a right that can only be exercised over a particular route), and explain the justification for any such provisions by reference to ORR's criteria.

4.37-4.54

4.11 Route utilisation strategies

If applicable, please also state which route utilisation strategies (RUSs) are considered relevant to this application and whether the proposed rights are consistent with that RUS, and the freight route utilisation strategy. If the proposed rights are not consistent, please state the reasons for this.

2.28

4.5-4.8

5. Incentives

5.1 Charges and performance

Please indicate, and explain the reasons for, any instances where the proposed contract departs from the charging and/or performance regimes in the model freight track access contract including the financial implications (e.g. establishment of an access charge supplement or rebate).

5.1-5.18

5.25-5.32

5.2 Train operator performance

Please describe any planned initiatives associated with the operation of the services in the proposed contract aimed at improving the train operator's own performance.

4.29-4.31

5.25-5.31

5.3 Facility owner performance

Please describe any planned initiatives associated with the operation of the services in the proposed amendment aimed at improving the facility owner's own performance.

4.29-4.31

5.25-5.31

5.4 Restrictions of use

Please indicate and explain the reasons for any instances where the proposed contract departs from the restrictions of use regime in the model freight track access contract.

5.33-5.36

6. Enhancement

6.1 Enhancement details

Where the proposed contract provides for the delivery of any network enhancements, or the services in the proposed contract are predicated on any planned network enhancements, please give full details of the relevant enhancement schemes, including a summary of outputs from the scheme, timescales and the extent to which the network change procedure in the Network Code (Part G) has been completed (where appropriate, by reference to submissions made under ORR's enhancement reporting framework).

4.77-4.80

6.2 Enhancement charges

Please confirm that the arrangements for the funding of any network enhancements (outside the scope of the incremental costs provisions) are consistent with ORR's policy framework for investments⁴, and summarise the level and duration of payments, and the assumed rate of return.

5.19-5.21

7. Other

7.1 Associated applications to ORR

Please indicate whether this application is being made in parallel with, or relates to, any other current or proposed applications to ORR (e.g. in respect of track, station or other freight facilities access contracts or agreements).

3.18-3.19

⁴ *Policy framework for investments: conclusions*, Office of Rail Regulation, October 2005, available at <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/255.pdf>.

7.2 Unregulated access

Please comment on the extent to which any contracts are being negotiated for access to a facility adjoining Network Rail's network (e.g. to a freight light maintenance depot) where ORR's approval is not required⁵. **2.62-2.65**

3.19

7.3 Supporting information

Please indicate here any further justification or relevant information in support of the application, including a list and explanation of any other material being submitted (and supply copies with the application) **3.32**

7.4 Side letters and collateral agreements

Please confirm here that the whole of the proposed contract between the parties has been submitted with this application and that there are no side letters or other documents which qualify or otherwise affect the proposed access contract **6.12-6.16**
6.21

7.5 Confidentiality exclusions

Where applicable, please state clearly what elements of the application have been excluded, on the grounds of confidentiality, from the version of the proposed contract sent to consultees for the pre-application consultation process. **3.25-3.29**

**Code of Practice:
20-23**

Applicants should be aware that ORR will make the final decision on what information is excluded from publication on its public register and website (following its decision on whether to approve this application) having regard to the grounds for confidentiality set out in section 71(2) of the Railways Act 1993.

Accordingly, where the applicants make exclusions prior to consultation, they should provide a full justification for each instance by reference to those statutory grounds. ORR will consider these justifications when making its decision on whether the information should be excluded from the public register and publication elsewhere. Further guidance on confidentiality is provided in the Code of Practice.

⁵ As provided for in The Railways (Class and Miscellaneous Exemptions) Order 1994, SI 1994 No.606

Note: The remainder of this application should not be completed until after a pre-application consultation has been carried out in line with the Code of Practice

8. Pre-application consultation

**Code of Practice:
17-18**

8.1

Please confirm here that a pre-application consultation been carried out in line with the Code of Practice, and:

- list all train operators and other parties that you have consulted, stating which parties, if any, made representations (other than nil returns) in response and attach their responses and any associated documentation to this form; and
- state the period allowed for the consultation and, if less than 28 days, please explain the reasons for this.

8.2 Resolved issues

Please detail any issues raised in response to the consultation that have been resolved to the satisfaction of the consultee. You may wish to refer to responses attached to this form.

**Code of Practice:
48-49**

8.3 Unresolved issues

Please detail any issues raised in response to the consultation that have not been resolved to the satisfaction of the consultee, including any correspondence with that consultee. You may wish to refer to responses attached to this form. Please explain why you do not think these issues should preclude ORR's approval of the application.

**Code of Practice:
50**

8.4

Please explain any aspects of the application that have changed as a result of the consultation and why they have changed.

8.5

Please list here any further information being provided to ORR to support the application that was not made available to consultees in the pre-application consultation held as part of this application and listed in section 7.3. If the applicants wish ORR to consider excluding this information from subsequent publication they should justify why the information is of a confidential nature, following the guidance provided in section 7.5 above.

8. Certification

Warning: Under section 146 of the Act, any person who, in giving any information or making any application under or for the purposes of any provision of the Act (including section 18), makes any statement which they know to be false in a material particular, or recklessly makes any statement which is false in a material particular, is guilty of an offence and so liable to criminal prosecution.

3.33
6.22

I certify that the information provided in this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and that the facility owner and the beneficiary are willing to enter into the attached contract as submitted.

<u>Facility Owner</u>	<u>Beneficiary</u>
Signed:	Signed:
Date:	Date:
Name (in caps):	Name (in caps):
Job title:	Job title:
For (company):	For (company):

9. Submission

9.1 What to send

Please supply hard copies of: the signed application form; the proposed contract; any documents incorporated by reference (other than established standard industry codes or other instruments) and any other attachments, supporting documents or information.

3.32

Please also supply the application, the proposed contract and, insofar as it is possible, any other supporting information, in electronic form, by e-mail or on disc, **in plain Microsoft Word format** (i.e. excluding any macros, auto-para or page numbering, or other auto-formatting).

3.30-3.31

9.2 Where to send it

Manager, Track Access Team
Directorate of Access, Planning and Performance
Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

ORR Form 18 June 2008