

Adif will have to give more advance notice of works on the network to avoid damage to railway companies and their customers

- On occasions, Adif and Adif Alta Velocidad (abbreviated as 'Adif AV') must cut or restrict rail traffic due to maintenance and improvement works.
- Train companies need to be informed of these circumstances in advance in order to offer travel alternatives to their customers.
- At present, the national railway infrastructure managers fail to provide this information in sufficient time.
- The CNMC has imposed several obligations on them to remedy this situation.

Madrid, 22 July 2022.- Maintenance and improvement works are essential to ensure the quality of railway infrastructure. These works affect railway companies and their customers because they force them to modify, or even cancel, the planned train routes.

It is therefore essential that Adif and Adif AV, the Spanish railway infrastructure managers, communicate these circumstances with sufficient notice to train companies.

After analysing a complaint filed by Asociación de Empresas Ferroviarias Privadas (the Spanish Association of Private Railway Companies), the CNMC has concluded that Adif and Adif AV inform about capacity restrictions with less advance notice and detail than required by law ([STP/DTSP/034/21](#)).

Accordingly, the Commission has imposed several information and consultation obligations to ensure that network managers can take into account the needs of railway companies when planning infrastructure works.

Deadlines and queries

[Delegated Decision \(EU\) 2017/2075](#) establishes detailed rules of transparency and prior consultation regarding capacity restrictions based on their impact. Specifically, for restrictions lasting more than seven days and affecting more than 30% of the daily traffic volume, the railway infrastructure manager must provide

information on the change of the working timetable at least 24 months in advance¹, and an update at least 12 months in advance.

The Commission's analysis has led to the conclusion that the railway companies only know the details of the extent of the capacity restrictions two to three months before the start of the works, and that the affected train paths are only rescheduled a few days before the start of the works, making it difficult for railway companies to offer alternative transport plans to their customers.

Hence, two months before the end of the deadline for capacity requests by railway companies, Adif and Adif AV shall update the information regarding capacity restrictions on the working timetable and consult with railway companies to try to limit their impact on railway activity.

In addition, they shall keep the Catalog of Temporary Capacity Restrictions up to date and with the required detail and provide details of train paths four months before the start of the restrictions for passenger services, and one month in advance for freight services.

¹Working timetables run from December of one year to December of the following year. Each July, railway companies must request infrastructure capacity to provide their services in the working timetable starting in the following December.