**REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON** **PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND**

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**DECREE No. 2026/ 01556 / PM of 20 AOUT 2026**

**to lay down the terms and conditions for the operation of rolling stock on Cameroon's railway network.-**

**THE PRIME MINISTER, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT,**

Mindful of the Constitution;

Mindful of Law No. 98/013 of 14 July 1998 on competition;

Mindful of Law No. 2018/012 of 11 July 2018 relating to the Fiscal Regime of the State and other Public Entities;

Mindful of Law No. 2023/010 of 25 July 2023 governing rail way sector in Cameroon;

Mindful of Decree No. 92/089 of 4 May 1992 to specify the duties of the Prime Minister, as amended and supplemented by Decree No. 95/145 of 4 August 1995;

Mindful of Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 to organise the Government, as amended and supplemented by Decree No. 2018/190 of 2 March 2018;

Mindful of Decree No. 2019/001 of 4 January 2019 to appoint a Prime Minister, Head of Government,

**HEREBY DECREES AS FOLLOWS :**

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## CHAPTER I
## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**ARTICLE 1.-** (1) This decree lays down the terms and conditions for the operation of railway rolling stock on Cameroon's railway network.

(2) It applies to railway rolling stock intended for use on the railway network, whether new, refurbished, rehabilitated, or already in service.

**ARTICLE 2.-** (1) All railway rolling stock intended for operation on Cameroon's railway network shall be subject to prior authorisation, in accordance with the provisions of this decree.

(2) The authorisations provided for in paragraph 1 above shall apply to:

- Acquisition ;
- homologation ;
- and entry into service.

**ARTICLE 3.-** For the purposes of this decree, the following definitions shall apply:

**Railway operator :** corporate body or private individual holding a concession or license to construct, develop, or operate both technically and commercially rail freight and/or passenger transportation services;

**Homologation:** an assessment and verification process conducted to certify that railway rolling stock intended for initial entry into service in Cameroon complies with applicable standards, regulations, and technical specifications, thereby ensuring its compatibility and safe operation on the railway network on which it is intended to be operated;

**Registration**: the administrative process of entering a piece of rolling stock into the railway registry using a unique identification number;

**Railway rolling stock:** motor vehicle or towed vehicle, designed and intended for use on the railway track, regardless of its destination;

**Railway component:** a component or functional subassembly of railway rolling stock that performs a specific technical function and may be subject to maintenance or replacement;

**Railway safety component:** a railway component whose proper operation is essential to the safe movement of rolling stock;

**Prototype:** the first unit designed and manufactured of a model of railway rolling stock, or a replacement part, for the purpose of verifying that its design meets technical, safety, and performance requirements prior to mass production;

**Rail network:** a system of public or private rail infrastructure lines located within the national territory and intended for the operation of rail transportation services.

## CHAPTER II
## ACQUISITION
## OF RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK AND SPARE PARTS

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### SECTION I
### APPROVAL OF THE SPECIFICATIONS

**ARTICLE 4**.- The specifications for the procurement of rolling stock or spare parts must be approved in advance by the Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority.

**ARTICLE 5.-** (1) The application for approval shall be submitted to the Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority. It shall be joined with an administrative file and a technical file.

(2) The administrative file shall comprise :

- a certified true copy of the certificate of registration in the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register;
- a copy of the operating license;
- a certificate of tax compliance;
- a certificate of social compliance;
- a form drawn up and provided by the Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority, duly completed and signed by the applicant.

(3) The technical file shall comprise :

- Photographs of the rolling stock or spare part, if applicable, its general description and use;
- a technical documentation written in French and English, including, in particular:
  - a detailed description of the type and model of the equipment;
  - a list of modifications, when the equipment is already in service;
  - design and manufacturing drawings;

- a description of the main subsystems, including the car body, bogies, axles, braking system, traction system, power supply, doors, air conditioning (if applicable), safety equipment, and the on-board signalling system.

- maintenance history, if applicable;
- a description of the planned trials and tests;
- inspection and test reports, if applicable;
- the operation and maintenance guide, if applicable.

**ARTICLE 6.-** (1) The complete application shall be submitted in four (04) copies at the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority against receipt.

(2) The Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority shall review the application and shall conduct all necessary verification and inspection procedures. It may also request any necessary additional information from the applicant.

**ARTICLE 7.-** (1) The Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority shall issue its decision within a maximum of thirty (30) days from the date of submission of the complete application.

(2) Once the time limit referred to in paragraph 1 above has expired, the specifications are deemed to have been approved.

**ARTICLE 8.-** (1) The Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority may seek the opinion of the relevant ministries and bodies and inform the applicant accordingly.

(2) The request for an opinion shall suspend the time limit set forth in Article 7 above.

(3) The request for additional information provided for in Article 6, paragraph 2, above shall suspend the time limit provided for in Article 7 above.

**ARTICLE 9.-** (1) Approval of the specifications shall take the form of an endorsement affixed to the documents by the Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority.

(2) The approved specifications shall be returned to the rail operator.

(3) Approval of the specifications shall constitute authorisation for the acquisition.

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## SECTION II
## HOMOLOGATION

**ARTICLE 10.-** (1) All railway rolling stock intended for initial entry into service on Cameroon's railway network must undergo prior homologation.

(2) The homologation shall also apply to any spare part intended for rolling stock that has already been approved, particularly when the spare part is likely to alter the technical characteristics of the rolling stock, affect its safety, or influence its compatibility or performance.

(3) The spare parts referred to in paragraph 1 above shall include, in particular, the car body, bogies, axles, the braking system, the traction system, the power supply, the on-board signalling system, the impact and traction device, and any other safety component.

**ARTICLE 11.-** The purpose of homologation shall be to :

- ensure the safety of rail operations;
- ensure the reliability and performance of rolling stock;
- verify the compatibility of rolling stock with the rail network;
- verify the interoperability of rolling stock, where applicable;
- ensure that rolling stock meets the sector's objectives.

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## PARAGRAPH I
## APPLICATION AND PROCESSING OF THE APPLICATION PRIOR TO HOMOLOGATION

**ARTICLE 12.-** Any railway operator may apply for homologation for a railway rolling stock or a spare part.

**ARTICLE 13.-** (1) The application for homologation shall be submitted to the Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority. It shall be joined with an administrative file and a technical file.

(2) The administrative file shall comprise:

- a certified true copy of the certificate of registration in the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register;
- a copy of the operating licence;
- a certificate of tax compliance;
- a certificate of social compliance;
- a receipt of payment of the application processing fee issued by the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority;
- an application form for homologation, drawn up and provided by the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority, duly completed and signed by the applicant.

(3) The technical file shall comprise:

- photographs of the rolling stock or spare part, whether already acquired or in the process of being acquired, together with its general description and its use;
- technical documentation written in French and English, including in particular:
  - a detailed description of the type and model of the equipment;
  - a list of modifications where the equipment is already in service;
  - design and manufacturing drawings;
  - a description of the main subsystems, including the car body, bogies, axles, braking system, traction system, power supply, doors, air conditioning (if applicable), safety equipment and the on-board signalling system, and the impact and traction device;
  - operating instructions;
  - the user's guide;
- a declaration of compliance from the equipment manufacturer setting out all the standards used in the manufacture of the equipment in question;
- the certificate of compliance with the relevant standards provided by the manufacturer;
- copies of the test reports relating to compatibility and safety.

**ARTICLE 14.-** (1) The complete application shall be submitted in four (04) copies at the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority against receipt.

(2) The Railway Regulation and Safety Authority shall examine the application and shall carry out all the necessary verification, inspection and testing procedures.

(3) The Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority may entrust the technical assessment to an approved body for the purposes of homologation.

**ARTICLE 15.-** The Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority shall issue its decision within a maximum period of ninety (90) days from the date on which the complete application for homologation is submitted.

**ARTICLE 16.-** (1) The Railway Regulation and Safety Authority may seek the opinion of the relevant ministries and bodies and inform the applicant accordingly.

(2) The request for an opinion referred to in paragraph 1 above shall suspend the time limit laid down in Article 15 above.

PARAGRAPH II
ISSUANCE OF THE HOMOLOGATION CERTIFICATE

**ARTICLE 17.-** (1) When the rolling stock or spare part complies with the requirements of this Decree, the homologation certificate shall be issued by the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority.

(2) Any refusal shall be justified and notified to the applicant.

**ARTICLE 18.-** The homologation certificate shall state, in particular:

- the holder of the homologation;
- the certificate number;
- the date of issuance;
- the manufacturer;
- the type of equipment, model, version;
- the number of manufacture or serial number;
- a technical description of the equipment;
- the technical standards or specifications used;
- the intended use of the equipment.

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**ARTICLE 19.-** The homologation certificate shall remain valid as long as the rolling stock continues to comply with the applicable regulatory requirements.

**ARTICLE 20.-** (1) The Railway Regulation and Safety Authority may, on its own initiative or following a complaint from any person, carry out investigations into the operation and use of an approved railway rolling stock.

(2) When, following the investigations provided for in paragraph 1 above, defects or irregularities are found, the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority shall withdraw the homologation certificate.

(3) The withdrawal may be ordered on the following grounds:

- the holder fails to comply with the requirements of the homologation certificate;
- the homologation certificate was obtained on the basis of false statements or forged documents;
- the rolling stock no longer complies with the technical and safety requirements on the basis of which it was type approved;
- serious defects are discovered after homologation;

- the approved equipment has undergone substantial unauthorised modifications;
- the approved rolling stock affects the performance of the rail network.

PARAGRAPH III
MODIFICATIONS MADE
TO RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK

**ARTICLE 21.-** Any modification made to approved equipment shall be assessed by the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority to determine its impact on the safety, compatibility or performance of railway operations.

**ARTICLE 22**.- A new homologation shall be required when the modification made to railway rolling stock relates, in whole or in part, to the :

- braking system;
- electrical equipment;
- bogies;
- axles or suspension;
- on-board signalling systems;
- structure of the car body;
- impact and traction mechanism;
- performance.

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**ARTICLE 23**.- (1) Any modifications made to railway rolling stock that has already been approved, which relate to a substitution carried out as part of maintenance and which are limited to the replacement of spare parts with other spare parts that fulfil the same functions and deliver the same performance, shall be reported to the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority without delay.

(2) Failure to comply with the requirement set out in paragraph 1 above shall expose the railway operator to the penalties provided for by law.

## CHAPTER III
## ENTRY INTO SERVICE OF RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK

**ARTICLE 24.-** The entry into service of any railway rolling stock shall be subject to its prior registration.

### SECTION I
### APPLICATION AND PROCESSING OF THE REGISTRATION APPLICATION

**ARTICLE 25.-** (1) The application for registration shall be submitted to the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority. It shall be joined with an administrative file and a technical file.

(2) The administrative file shall comprise a:

- registration application form drawn up and provided by the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority, duly completed and signed by the applicant;
- certified true copy of the certificate of registration in the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register;
- certificate of tax compliance;
- copy of the operating licence;

- sales contract, a transfer agreement, a purchase invoice or a tenancy agreement;
- the insurance certificate covering the risks related to the operation of rolling stock;
- customs clearance certificates, where applicable;
- the certificate of deregistration from the railway register of the country of origin, where applicable;
- receipt for payment of the file processing fee issued by the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority.

(3) The technical file shall comprise the:
- name, brand, model and type of rolling stock;
- number of manufacture or serial number;
- year of manufacture;
- manufacturer's name;
- photographs of the rolling stock, its general description and use;
- homologation certificate.

**ARTICLE 26**.- (1) The complete application shall be submitted in four (04) copies at the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority against receipt.

(2) The Railway Regulation and Safety Authority shall examine the application and carry out all necessary verification and inspection procedures.

**ARTICLE 27.-**The Railway Regulatory and Safety Authority shall issue its decision within a maximum period of forty-five (45) days from the date of submission of the complete application.

**ARTICLE 28.-** An application for registration may be rejected when the:

- railway operator fails to submit the required documents within the specified time limits;
- railway rolling stock does not meet the regulatory requirements;
- documents submitted are inaccurate, forged or fraudulent.

## SECTION II
## ISSUANCE OF THE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

**ARTICLE 29**.- Where the application meets all the regulatory requirements, the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority shall issue a registration certificate for the rolling stock in question.

**ARTICLE 30.-** The registration certificate shall state, in particular the:
- unique registration number of the equipment;
- date of issuance of the number;
- name or company name of the owner;
- category of the equipment;
- model or type of equipment;
- brand;
- manufacturer;
- year of manufacture;
- number of manufacture or serial number;
- technical description of the equipment.

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**ARTICLE 31.**- (1) Registration shall be evidenced by the affixing, to the sides of railway rolling stock, of a unique identification number, marked in a legible, permanent, indelible manner that is resistant to the elements, cleaning and wear and tear.

(2) In addition to the registration number, statutory markings shall be affixed to the railway rolling stock to indicate the name, acronym or code of the railway operator.

**ARTICLE 32**.- A metal plate affixed to the railway rolling stock shall state the:

- manufacturer's name ;
- year of manufacture ;
- number of manufacture ;
- type or model of the railway rolling stock.

**ARTICLE 33**.- Registration shall entail the entry of the rolling stock in the Railway Register

## CHAPTER IV
## FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

**ARTICLE 34.-** The homologation of railway rolling stock shall entitle the applicant to the payment of application processing fees and homologation fee.

**ARTICLE 35**.- (1) The application processing fees shall be paid by the railway operator upon submission of the homologation application. These fees shall not be refundable.

(2) The application processing fees referred to in paragraph 1 above are set at one million (1, 000, 000) CFA francs per item of rolling stock.

**ARTICLE 36.-** (1) The homologation fee shall be paid by the railway operator upon collection of the homologation certificate. Payment of this fee shall be a prerequisite for the issuance of the homologation certificate.

(2) The amounts of the fee referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be set as follows:

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| **Types of rolling stock** | | **Prices (FCFA)** |
|---|---|---|
| Mainline locomotive | | 20,000,000 |
| Shunting locomotive | | 15,000,000 |
| Railcar or passenger train | | 30,000,000 |
| Passenger carriage | | 8,000,000 |
| Freight wagon | | 7,000,000 |
| Construction machinery | handcar | 6,000,000 |
| | special handcar | 7,000,000 |
| | ballast tamping machine | 12,000,000 |
| | track-setting machine | 10,000,000 |
| | sleeper-laying machine | 15,000,000 |
| | inspection railcar | 8,000,000 |
| | railway cranes | 10,000,000 |
| | light rail-road vehicle | 1,500,000 |
| | rail-road construction machinery | 4,000,000 |
| | other construction machinery | 1% of the FOB value |
| Modification of an already type-approved vehicle | | 50% of the initial tariff |

(3) The amount of homologation fee shall be set at forty per cent (40%) of the amount specified in paragraph 2 above, in the case of second-hand rolling stock.

**ARTICLE 37**.-The registration of railway rolling stock shall entitle the holder to the payment of application processing fees and a registration fee.

**ARTICLE 38**.- (1) The application processing fees shall be paid by the railway operator upon submission of the registration application. These fees shall not be refundable.

(2) The amount of the application processing fees referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be set at one hundred thousand (100,000) CFA francs per unit of rolling stock.

**ARTICLE 39.-** (1) The registration fee shall be paid by the railway operator upon collection of the registration certificate. Payment of this fee shall be a prerequisite for the issuance of the registration certificate.

(2) The amounts of the fee provided for in paragraph 1 above shall be set as follows:

| **Types of rolling stock** | **Prices (FCFA)** |
|---|---|
| Locomotive | 300,000 |
| Railcar or passenger train | 300,000 |
| Passenger carriage | 150,000 |
| Freight wagon | 300,000 |
| Single handcar | 200,000 |
| Heavy construction machinery | 300,000 |
| Other construction machinery | 150,000 |

**ARTICLE 40**.- (1) The issuance of a duplicate registration certificate shall be subject to the payment of a fee of twenty-five thousand (25,000) CFA francs.

(2) The removal of railway rolling stock from the railway register shall be subject to the payment of a fee of fifty thousand (50,000) CFA francs.

**ARTICLE 41**.- The fees related to the inspections and tests carried out by the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority as part of the examination of applications for the approval or registration of railway rolling stock shall be borne by the railway operators.

**ARTICLE 42**.- The fees and charges provided for in Articles 34 and 37 above shall be collected by the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority and allocated as follows:

- Treasury: 20 per cent;
- Railway Regulation and Safety Authority: 40 per cent;
- Railway Assets Company: 30 per cent;
- Performance bonus allocated to staff responsible for railway coordination, regulation and supervision: 10 per cent.

**ARTICLE 43**.- Conditions for the allocation of the performance bonus awarded to staff responsible for railway coordination, regulation and control, as provided in Article 42 above, shall be laid down in a specific order issued by the Prime Minister.

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## CHAPTER V
## MISCELLANEOUS, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

**ARTICLE 44**.- Approval of the specifications, the homologation certificate or the registration certificate shall not be an authorisation to use railway networks.

**ARTICLE 45**.- The transport authority shall be responsible for issuing the authorisations provided for in this decree, pending the establishment of the Railway Regulation and Safety Authority.

**ARTICLE 46.**- (1) Railway rolling stock authorised for use on Cameroon's railway networks prior to the date of entry into force of this Decree shall not be subject to homologation.

(2) Railway rolling stock authorised for use on Cameroon's railway networks prior to the date of entry into force of this Decree must be registered within a maximum period of twelve (12) months from the date of publication of this Decree.

(3) Railway rolling stock not authorised for use on Cameroon's railway networks on the date this Decree comes into force shall be subject to homologation and registration requirements.

**ARTICLE 47**.- Authorisations issued prior to the date of signature of this Decree shall remain valid.

**ARTICLE 48.**- Specific regulations issued by the Minister in charge of rail transport shall, where necessary, set out the procedures for the implementation of this Decree.

**ARTICLE 49**.- This decree shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency, and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French.

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Yaounde, the 20 AOUT 2026

**Joseph DION NGUTE,**
**PRIME MINISTER,**
**HEAD OF GOVERNMENT,**