

UK Link Modification Process

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Topic Review

- Who has expressed views?
- Current Processes
 - What is working well?
 - What is working less well?
 - Any diverse views?
- Potential Solutions

Who has Expressed Views?

- Governance Workstream Members
- UK Link Committee Members
- Transporters - to Joint Office
- Gemini Forum Members – to xoserve

What is Working Well(1)?

- UK Link Committee
 - Business-like meeting
 - Co-operative atmosphere
 - Usually reaches consensus
 - No desire to introduce majority voting
 - Transporters speak with one voice
 - Role of xoserve
 - Representative
 - Nine shippers
 - Some issues raised by Gemini forum members

What is Working Well (2)?

- Class 2 Modification Process
 - Consultation processes seen to work
 - Occasional late release of information
 - Positive responses by shippers
 - Large measure of agreement
 - Flexibility shown by Transporters in meeting shippers' aspirations

What is Working Less Well (1)?

- Class 1 Mods
 - Lack of transparency
 - Lack of consultation
 - Decisions contested when established
- Transporters have addressed concern by producing guidelines.....

Class 1 Modification Criteria

- Interfaces with Network Systems
- Interfaces with Internal Systems
- Reporting Change - Operational Data Store data items
- Internal Database Changes - ie interim tables within UK Link Systems
- Internal On-Line Screen Changes
- Datafixes - provided that the value being datafixed was consistent with the file formats, ie length, AV, conditionality
- Timing of Batch Runs of UK Link Systems

Potential Class 1 Modifications

- File numbering convention
- UK Link Manual Changes

What is Working Less Well (2)?

- Class 3 Mods
 - Perceived lack of priority in conducting impact assessments
 - But few complaints
 - Onerous approval process
 - UNC Mod Process has to be applied
 - Transporters raise the UNC Proposal
 - Need for change identified by Transporters and Shippers

Nobody can recall a successful example!

Diverse Views

- 3 Releases per year
 - Shipper UK Link Committee reps generally supportive
 - Transporters work to the system
 - Tend to work outside for non Class 2s
 - Adverse reaction from some Gemini forum members

Potential Solutions

- Governance of Class 1 criteria
 - UNC Mod? Formal document for approval?
Requirement for independent audit?
 - No need for any of these expressed after criteria published.

Potential Solutions

- Class 3
 - Single proposer UK Link and UNC
 - Firm time scales for impact assessment
 - But who pays?
 - Budget for Class 3 Mods
 - How is this established?
 - Who pays into budget and how is it split?
 - Who approves?
 - Incentive to spend budget whatever?

Potential Solutions

- Process Improvements – JO working on
 - UK Link Committee Terms of Reference
 - Flow Diagrams of approval processes
- Communication
 - Active liaison between Gemini Forum and UK Link Committee
 - JO and xoserve working together
 - More consistency of shipper reps?