

Support for Class 70 'Powerhaul' Locomotives

Case Study



In 2007, General Electric Transportation (GE) of Erie, Pennsylvania, USA, was contracted by the British operator Freightliner Group to supply 30 new 'PowerHaul' heavy-haul diesel freight locomotives.

PowerHaul provides significantly higher tractive effort and fuel efficiency than existing freight locomotives in service in Britain, introduces new technology to the British locomotive market, and incorporates compliance to the latest European standards in key areas. The build was set against a backdrop of significant change in the prevailing mandatory standards and regulatory processes and was the first time that GE had built a locomotive for Britain.



Consequently, GE and Freightliner recognised from the outset the need for an experienced and proactive Notified Body that would enable the project to be delivered effectively and without undue delays.

They chose Interfleet to fulfil this role.

Interfleet's support included:

- Guidance on the interpretation of mandatory standards
- Notified Body certification through assessment modules SB+SD
- Support in obtaining derogations against national standards to enable the use of European standards, the use of proven GE technology, and to maximise the testing at the manufacturer's own test track
- Guidance through the assessment of compatibility with the mainline railway infrastructure ('route acceptance')



The first two locomotives started working trials within a week of arriving in the UK, and were authorised into service by the ORR within 5 weeks of the first arrival. This illustrates Interfleet's ability to work collaboratively with operators and manufacturers alike in order to achieve efficient and timely certification and authorisation.

Contact :

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