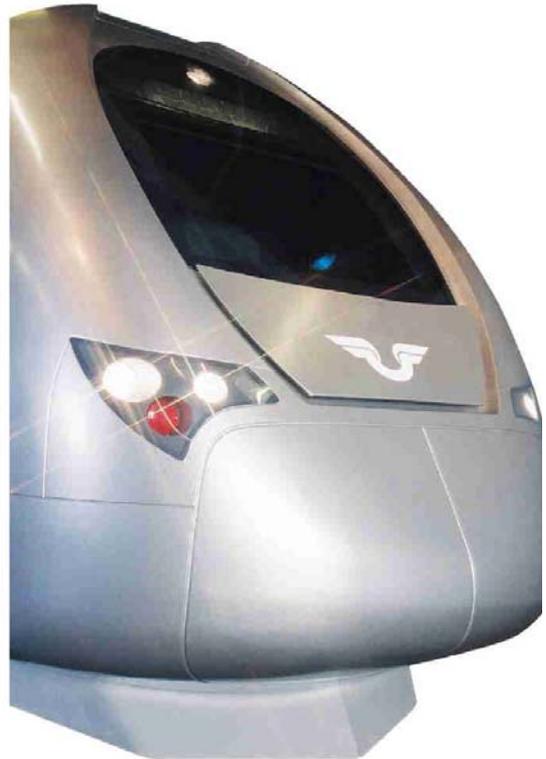


The Challenge

Recent restructuring and change of roles in the rail industry has affected the vehicle certification process. Previously, the national railways took responsibility to approve new vehicles for operation on their networks. Now the manufacturer is often given the responsibility to get the necessary approvals from authorities and infrastructure managers. Often this means both to identify requirements for the design, and to supply the authorities with the necessary documentation to prove that the requirements are met.

In 2001 the Swedish operator SJ AB ordered a fleet of double-deck EMUs from Alstom. The contract specified that Alstom was responsible for the certification. Alstom contracted Transrail to manage the homologation and certification process of the vehicles. It was almost a necessity to get the required know-how and process support from a competent local party with international experience.



The Solution

Our solution came in principle in 5 steps:

1. To define a suitable certification process and get it agreed by the parties.
2. At the date of this project many of the authority requirements were not clearly documented, which was partly due to the fact that the roles of the authorities were new to certain degree. Thus, our second step was to establish a document covering all authority requirements, including references to European or national standards. This document was processed and agreed with the authorities. Requirements on how to prove compliance were agreed. This document became of fundamental importance for the design, documentation and testing activities of Alstom.
3. To work out an administrative method whereby the process of documentation deliveries and approvals could be monitored and managed.
4. To establish a schedule for the approval process and the various steps by which approvals needed to be obtained in order to gradually step up the track tests.
5. To supervise the process, manage documentation flows and review documents prior to submission. To facilitate and give assistance whenever necessary.

To transfer the requirements to the manufacturer, knowledge of and experience with both Swedish and international conditions come to pass, to bridge technological and linguistic barriers. During the project, Transrail has also had an advisory function for the manufacturer's project management, which has turned to Transrail as needed for everything from individual issues to strategic considerations. Taken together, our work for X40 has brought a clear, consistent, efficient and timely approvals process. Problems have been quickly resolved.

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