
Subject: Suggested refined definitions and extension to organizationalUnits

Posted by [Torben Brand](#) on Mon, 10 Feb 2020 14:25:06 GMT

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For a clearer use of organisational units the Norwegian railway sector recommends to further refine the existing definitions to make them more clear and to introduce on extension.

There are 8 fixed types of organisations in railML2:

- infrastructureManager
- vehicleManufacturer
- vehicleOperator
- customer
- railwayUndertaking
- operationalUndertaking
- concessionaire
- contractor

We suggest extending railML2.5 with a new sub element/type "vehicleOwner" and to allow extensions with <any> element.

I tried to find some background information in the forum, but only found this string without any clear definitions: https://www.railml.org/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=348&goto=1102&#msg_1102

We would like to ask the community how they define the 8 types of organisations. To start the discussion, we suggest the following definition improvements of the terms:

organisationalUnits

Semantics:

Container element for pre-defining organizational units, that will be referred from within the railML file.

Organisational units are railway related organisations that can be a government authority, local authority, corporation, enterprise, public company, private company, undertaking/body or other legal entity.

Each element may be used several times for several entries, as e.g. a network may be divided into areas with different infrastructure managers, and as within the network there will usually move vehicles from different producers. Every element entry within this container has, at least, an attribute name plus an attribute id. It can be addressed via this id from certain other places within the railML®-file

Notes:

Note that as in railML2 the type of organisation is declared by the element. So, you need to register the same organisation in each relevant element if it has more than one role.

infrastructureManager

Semantics:

An organisation that is responsible for establishing and maintaining railway infrastructure, which may also include the management of infrastructure control and safety systems. The functions of the infrastructure manager on a network or part of a network may be allocated to different bodies or undertakings.

Via code it can be linked to the codelist infrastructureManagers.xml, where numerous

infrastructure managers are listed.

vehicleManufacturer

Semantics: An organisation that produces railway vehicles.

vehicleOperator

Semantics: An organisation responsible for operating the railway vehicle on behalf of a railway undertaking (usually as a sub-contractor).

Customer

Semantics: An organisation that orders transportation service from a railway undertaking. The customer can have exclusive transportation ownership rights (concessions) or operate on open access.

railwayUndertaking

Semantics: An organisation, licensed according to applicable legislation, which principal business is to provide services for the transport of goods and/or passengers by rail with a requirement that the undertaking must ensure traction and is commercially responsible for the service.

operationalUndertaking

Semantics: An organisation responsible for the operational performance of a railway undertakings service (usually as a sub-contractor). Examples are organisations responsible for catering, cleaning or vehicle maintenance.

Concessionaire

Semantics: A <railwayUndertaking> that has received and operates under a concession from a <customer>.

Forum note: As this is over specific and the UC is not clear, we suggest deprecating this element. If there is a need for the contract status between customer or railway undertaking, that should be mapped in a separate construct.

Contractor

Semantics: Any relevant organisation not fitting to the other sub elements of <organisationalUnits>

vehicleOwner [new]

Semantics: An organisation which purpose is to make railway vehicles available for railway undertakings.

Subject: Re: Suggested refined definitions and extension to organizationalUnits
Posted by [Thomas Nygreen](#) on Thu, 13 Feb 2020 12:49:55 GMT

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Dear Torben,
Dear all,

I don't know why Torben's link did not become clickable, so I'll try to post it again, as well as the related trac issue:

Forum: <https://www.railml.org/forum/index.php?t=msg&goto=1102>

Trac: <https://trac.railml.org/ticket/178>

I have not found any further context, and in the old forum thread a "vehicleOwner" value was also suggested, but it was apparently not included at the end. Are there anyone in the community who can provide (best practice) examples of current usage? Would Torben's suggestions break any current functionality?

In addition to Torben's suggested changes, I would as if we really need both <railwayUndertaking>, <vehicleOperator> and <operationalUndertaking>. I propose to also deprecate at least one of the last two. Again, please comment!

Best,
Thomas
