Transport for London

Product Information Register Go-Live

Supplier FAQs

Version 1.3

What does this change mean for product assessment?

London Underground Standard S1011 Product Selection, Assessment and Authorisation for Use has been renamed and rewritten from first principles, to deal with several risks that the business has been carrying for some time.

The revised standard represents a move away from having a comprehensive list of "approved products" for all disciplines; the register formerly known as the Approved Product Register will be replaced by the Product Information Register (PIR).

Use of the PIR will only be mandatory for certain categories of products, as defined in the standard (Controlled Products, Repeatable Products & Replacement Products). Controlled Products are defined by R0704 London Underground Controlled Products List and include all track products, many signalling, power and Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) products and a small number from other disciplines.

What will happen to existing product assessments in the APR?

All existing assessed products in the APR which have been authorised for use, withdrawn or rejected will be automatically migrated to the new platform prior to the go-live date, therefore require no further action.

If you are currently involved in assessment approval for a product not currently at this stage, you should reach out to :

PWay queries contact pwaytechnicalqueries@tfl.gov.uk

Other enginerring disciplines contact your relevant TfL Engineering Acceptance Manager, Not sure: contact the team mailbox to understand how individual assessments are impacted.

What will happen to product assessments during the "freeze window"?

We are conducting an assessment freeze on the APR (19th December) for a period of 5 weeks until go-live of the new platform on 27 January 2025.

All products assessments will be frozen and any "in flight" applications will be moved to rejected or withdrawn to ensure they are migrated to the new platform.

The exiting APR will still be available to view the existing product certification and supporting evidence throughout the "freeze window".

Will the Approved Products Register (APR) be decommissioned?

Yes. The APR will be decommissioned on the 10 March 2025.

Do I need a login for the new platform?

Access to the Product Information Register (PIR), where you can access certification for assessed products and propose or modify an existing product, will be open to members of the public and will not require a login unlike with the Approved Product Register. A link to the new register will be shared once the platform is ready. There is no license fee required to get access to the register.

What are the key milestones and dates I need to be aware of?

19 December 2024	APR assessment freeze
27 January 2025	PIR Go live
10 March 2025	APR decommissioned

What action do I need to take as part of the Go-Live?

If you have a product assessment which is currently be assessed in the APR which is not currently approved for use, withdrawn or rejected you should engage with your relevant TfL Authorised Manager to understand your options. Once the PIR goes Live you will be redirected to the PIR from the APR and should use that platform from this date for querying assessed products and making assessment applications. There is no further action required to get access to the platform.

How do I get a product on the new register?

TfL will not consider any application for product assessment unless it is supported by a TfL Sponsor, who can confirm that there is a business requirement and related project (or maintenance activity) for it.

Only Controlled, Repeatable or Replacement products are required to be assessed by TfL Engineering and held on the PIR. Product assessments can be submitted by TfL Staff, Manufacturers or Authorised UK Agents. Products are added to the register once they have been assessed by the relevant engineering disciplines associated with a product after which they are then added to the register.

How do I find a TfL Product Sponsor?

Product Sponsors are specific to each engineering discipline.

Initially you should contact SMBProductInformationRegister@tfl.gov.uk to find the relevant product sponsor for your product.

How long do I get to submit an application in the new platform?

You have 7 days from starting a submission to complete it before the application will be removed. You will be reminded by email if you have started an application and not submitted it.

This is separate from how long it takes an application to be approved once submitted which depends on the product and associated engineering discipline.

Will existing certificates in the APR be replaced?

Certificates will be replaced with a new format but will retain the existing APR product assessment reference number. Therefore, any existing certificates will remain valid however you should use the latest certificate format from the PIR when available after the go-live of the PIR.

Who manages the Product Information Register (PIR) and the associated processes?

System administration of the Product Information Register is provided by the PIR support team (part of the Engineering Library) at SMBProductInformationRegister@tfl.gov.uk. Assessment of products for inclusion in the PIR is managed at local discipline level; each Engineering Discipline has its own local process, and the relevant Head of Profession/Technical Head is ultimately responsible for the assessment of products within their asset area.

What's the definition of controllable, repeatable and replacement products?

Controlled products are defined within the London Underground Controlled Products List (R0704). To understand whether your product is controlled or not you should reach out to your relevant TfL sponsor.

Repeatable products are defined as those intended to be used in a repeatable specific application and TfL is the Designer or maintainer responsible for selecting the product. Repeatable products are typically identified during product assessment.

Replacement products are when a product which forms part of an existing system is replaced with a different product (a 'Replacement Product'), this constitutes a design change to the existing system.

Who do I know if I need Product Acceptance/Assessment for my product?

In a maintenance scenario, where the product being used is truly "like for like", and the associated legislation and standards have not changed so as to preclude the use of the product. Depending on the product and system it is part of it may have a light assessment or a more detailed assessment.

Standard S1011 and the supporting Product Information Register tool, only apply once a specific need for a product has been identified (e.g. from a designer or maintainer)

Those products within the categories defined in London Underground's Controlled Products list, are required to be 'authorised for use in a specific application' by TfL Engineering and recorded in TfL's Product Information Register, prior to purchase.

[Note: Controlled Products are those used in a safety-critical application, produced to a TfL design or where the 'look and feel' is a key element]
For products which are not Controlled, where TfL is the party selecting the product (whether as designer or maintainer), and the product is being used in a repeatable application, TfL may elect to capture the assessment of the product in the Product Information Register (in order to avoid repeating the same assessment).

All assessments in the PIR will record the specific application for which the product has been authorised.

Exceptions are listed in section 2.3 of the standard S1011

How long do I get to submit an application once started?

Once you have submitted the contact email address you will receive an email, reminding you of your application. In the email you will be provided a link which will keep your application live for 7

days. Once this 7 day period expires, if you have not submitted the application you will have to restart your application.

How do I get access to S1011 and the list of controlled products?

Both documents will be disseminated to those who attend insight sessions but will also be available on the home page portal.

How will I know which discipline my product relates to?

Ideally any product assessment application will be supported by a TfL Sponsor. This will significantly speed up the process of product assessment. If you do not have a TfL Sponsor then you will need to reach out to the Product Information Register mailbox. Suppliers require a specific application for their product prior to submitting an assessment.

Can the TfL Sponsor be a contractor or NPL colleague?

No. The TfL Sponsor must be a permanent employee within TfL Engineering.

Can I publicise that our product is used by TfL?

There is no limitation on publicising that your product is used by TfL however we strongly recommended that any publicising is accurate and only for the products that have been assessed by TfL, ensuring to avoid the use of generic statements (e.g. Our products are TfL approved).
We also strongly recommend you adhere to the TfL guidelines on use of the TfL brand which you can view here: https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/business-and-advertisers/using-tfl-brand-ip.

Will existing APR reference numbers be migrated across?

Yes. Existing reference numbers will remain and be prefixed with "PIR-".

If I change the name but not the production of a product how do I amend it?

Any change to a product will require re-assessment. You can select the "Update Existing Product" option within the product application assessment portal and input the related PIR reference number for the product being superseded.