



## Content and Quality of Model Railway Equipment Kits

### Foreword

Kits are probably the basis of most models now being made and are often the first purchase made by a newcomer to the hobby. The Guild having noted the extent and nature of comments made regarding quality and content, has produced this Code of Practice which, in its opinion, specifies the minimum standard which a purchaser is entitled to expect from a kit.

**It is emphasised that the Guild has no intention of making compliance with the Code mandatory for traders who advertise in the Gazette or attend Guild events, nor will it take any action against manufacturers who choose not to observe it. It is for the modeller to decide whether to buy a kit and, bearing in mind the reason for producing the Code, it is for the manufacturer to decide whether or not compliance will influence that decision.**

In drafting the Code it was recognised that the number sold of any one kit is often small and that the manufacturer may be a small business operating on a part time basis. Nevertheless, it remains the duty of the manufacturer to ensure that a model of the intended standard can be produced by a modeller who does not necessarily possess detailed technical knowledge of the prototype. Furthermore, assembly of the kit should not need extensive reference to additional information.

### 1 Labelling

An exterior label on the package shall contain the following information which shall also be included in the supplier's catalogue and advertisements.

- 1.1 Adequate identification of the prototype. If applicable its condition (e.g. whether original or rebuilt) shall be stated.
- 1.2 The scale of the model.
- 1.3 A statement of major items (such as wheels and motor) not included in the kit.
- 1.4 A statement that the kit complies with this Code of Practice (see 4.1).

If a kit is intended for the more experienced modeller this should be made clear on the label and in other information.

### 2 Assembly Instructions

The following basic information shall be included within the package.

- 2.1 A list or other means by which the purchaser can check that components have not been accidentally omitted.
- 2.2 Some means of identifying components the function of which is not obvious.
- 2.3 A list of items not included in the kit which are necessary to complete the model to the standard intended by the manufacturer.

If the kit has been designed to incorporate specific additional components the source and ordering information of these shall be given.

- 2.4 Drawings or other information sufficient to enable all the components to be placed in the correct position. Where parts have to be formed to shape adequate information for doing so shall be included.

**Note:** Although not mandatory, it is suggested that a list of drawings and other information, (e.g. livery details), not included in the kit but which the builder may find helpful be included, particularly if they have been referred to when designing the kit.

- 2.5 Step-by-step instructions for assembling the kit. These shall draw particular attention to areas which require special care and also to any procedures with which the average modeller may not be familiar.
- 2.6 Details of special tools, adhesives, solders and other materials required to complete the model.

### 3 Quality

- 3.1 Unless stated otherwise the overall dimensions and other important features of the model (for example the size and position of coach windows) shall be to the scale stated on the label.

**Note:** It is recognised that some dimensions, particularly those associated with wheelsets and running gear, cannot be exactly to scale. Attention is drawn to the existence of Guild Standards for wheelsets.

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- 3.2 Each component shall be of a quality appropriate to the price of the kit and the manufacturer's intended standard of the finished model.
  - 3.3 Before assembly or bending to shape, components shall not require work other than drilling holes and removing burrs, sprues and other minor imperfections. The profile of preformed sheet metal components shall not require other than minor adjustment.
  - 3.4 Components shall fit well together. Particular attention shall be paid to ensuring that axles will be in accurate horizontal and vertical alignment when correctly assembled.
  - 3.5 An address shall be given in each kit from which missing components can be obtained or sub-standard ones replaced. Furthermore, the supplier shall recognise that a builder may lose or damage some items during assembly and shall supply replacements at reasonable cost. The supplier is entitled to request the return of components claimed to be faulty.

**Note:** Although not mandatory, it is suggested that extra quantities of small separate items which are easily damaged or mislaid be included. This applies particularly to etched kits for which it may not be practicable to supply separate small components.

#### 4 Statement of Compliance

- 4.1 Either of the following statements of compliance shall appear on the exterior label of the kit.

Complies with the Gauge O Guild Code of Practice CP 1 for the Content and Quality of Model Railway Equipment Kits
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or

Complies with G.O.Guild Code of Practice CP 1
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**Note:** A statement of compliance does not in any way signify that a kit has been approved by the Guild.

#### 5 Display Models

- 5.1 If a model built from a kit is exhibited as an aid to sales a list of any additional parts used, (other than paint but including transfers and nameplates), shall be prominently displayed adjacent to it.

#### 6 Compliance with the Law

- 6.1 Nothing in this Code of Practice shall diminish the supplier's liability in law appertaining to the sale of goods.