





# Keeping HF on track A case study of the Hitachi Class 800/801 intercity express train













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### Hitachi Class 800/801 trains

The Hitachi's Intercity Express Trains has been designed specifically for the UK market to replace the fleet of Intercity 125 and 225 trains that operate on the Great Western Main Line (GWML) and East Coast Main Line (ECML). There are two variants of the train, the Class 800 bi-mode and the Class 801 Electric, which are faster, higher capacity and more environmentally sustainable, to improve the passenger experience and support growth along the corridors they serve, through their manufacture and supply chain.

The design of the train is complete and the first train arrived in the UK on the 12 March 2015. The first train is expected to go into service in 2017 on the Great Western Main Line. The trains are to be built in a new factory in Newton Aycliffe in the UK





### Stakeholders

The project had multiple stakeholders, that include DCA's client Hitachi along with their clients – Agility Trains, the train operating companies, (VTEC and First Great western) and the department for transport.

At a user level it also includes the staff, train drivers and crew along with maintenance and cleaners.

At a passenger level, the design also explicitly considers the whole UK population along with tourists, that includes commuters, families, cyclists, pushchair users, wheelchair users and a whole host of physical and cognitive impairments

### Staff representatives

- Train drivers
- Train crew
- Maintenance
- Cleaners



Passenger groups

- Commuters
- Families
- Cyclists
- · Pushchair users
- Wheelchair users
- Visually impaired users









### Approach

The approach adopted throughout the project has been one of integrated and iterative design. This has involved a multidisciplinary team from DCA including designers, engineers, model-makers and human factors practitioners. The focus throughout the project has been on identifying and addressing any issues as early in the design process as possible. With regards to HF, we have followed a seven step process:



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### Methods employed

A wide range of traditional human factors methods have been applied throughout the project. These include:

- Ethnography observation of drivers and passengers using inservice trains.
- · Semi-structured interviews with drivers and train staff.
- Anthropometric assessments of the design against the target
  audience
- Task analysis a full Hierarchical Task Analysis (HTA) was conducted to describe the driving task
- Participatory design exercises to evaluate and re-design early cab prototypes
- Expert reviews of mock-ups
- Passenger focus groups in the train mock up
- User surveys in the mock up including a range of passengers (cyclists, users of prams, wheelchair users, visually impaired user, etc.)
- Force assessments
- Environmental assessments (light levels)

In addition, we also developed two new methods to support the process:

- Glare assessment (published in Applied Ergonomics)
- Task-based control assessment (Published in Journal of Rail and Rapid Transport)





### Exposure & promotion of HF

#### **Journal Papers**

- Jenkins, D., Baker, L., Harvey, C. (in press). A practical approach to evaluating train cabs against task requirements. Journal of Rail and Rapid Transit
- Jenkins, D., Baker, L., Harvey, C. (2015). *A practical approach to glare* assessment for train cabs. Applied Ergonomics. 47, 170-180

#### **Magazine articles**

- Jenkins, D. P. (2015). *Inclusive Design*. Rail Professional, February 2015, p107-108.
- Jenkins, D. P. & Harvey, C. (2014). *Designing the UK's next intercity* express train. The Ergonomist, November 2014, p12-13.

#### Conferences

- Jenkins, D. P. (2015). *Keeping human factors on track The design of the next generation intercity express train.* The Ergonomics Society Annual Conference. 13 16 April 2015 Daventry, UK. Plenary Lecture
- Jenkins, D. P. (in press). *The value of prototyping in train cab design*. Fifth international rail human factors conference

#### Blogs

Jenkins, D., & Harvey, C. (October). *Key role of human factors in the development of the UK's next intercity express train*. HF Transport Blog. http://www.hf-transport.org.uk/











## **Detailed description**















### Step 1 – Contractual & regulatory requirements

In consultation with the Department for Transport and the train operating companies, a train technical description (or TTD) was written that outlines a specification for the train. This forms a relatively detailed description of what the train should be capable of. It includes details like the number of seats and luggage requirements. There is also a long list of applicable regulations and standards, however, the most commonly used ones are shown here.

These provide fairly detailed descriptions of what the cab should achieve in terms of a safe and effective driving posture. They include descriptions of external visibility requirements as well as clear zones to protect drivers in the event of a collision.





### Convert requirements into pictorial representations

As part of digesting these requirements, we found it particularly useful to summarise them into a series of simple diagrams. This also helped to communicate the details to the remainder of the project team



### Step 2 – Derive additional requirements based on anthropometry

In a number of cases, the requirements provide generic statements, for example the cab shall be useable by 5<sup>th</sup> to 95<sup>th</sup> percentile driver. While this is a useful starting point, more measurable and testable requirements are needed to feed the design process. Accordingly, the next step of the process is to detail up the requirements using anthropometric data sets. Simple reach envelopes can be constructed to estimate the suitability of controls based on grip and finger tip reach.





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### Step 3 – CAD evaluations

The combined requirements from the standards and guidelines, along with the additional requirements can then be used to inform and test early design concepts.

At the project infancy, it is sometimes easier to start with 2D projection as they can be faster to update.

Φ:

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### **3D Assessments**

As the design develops, 3D assessments provide a greater level of confidence.









### Initial layout philosophy

The development of structural panels and the control layout need to happen together to ensure that they are compatible. The reach envelope forms the basis for the panel location and size.



In this case, the control layout was dominated by a number of core philosophies, the key one being that all pertinent information and controls are presented in the primary zone directly in front of the driver.

The next philosophy derives from the fact that the user is required to operate the combined power brake controller with their left hand. Accordingly, controls that require actuation are biased to the right, whereas display only features such as CCTV screen and indicator lamps have been placed to the left. The final philosophy is to cluster controls by their function for example all engine controls together in one place



1. Key info

central in

primary















Consistent conventions are also followed for example up above down, not next to it or below it. And start always above stop. To us, of course, all of this all sounds like incredible basic stuff, but it's staggering to see how many trains are out on our network that don't follow even these basic heuristics.

Once we completed an initial layout we created some basic 2D drawings like the one shown here for each panel and sent them to the key stakeholders for comments. As expected, we received lots of comments back, some with very strong opinions to the contrary. Many of the drivers involved had expectations set by other trains and wanted to see these replicated on this train. Despite the logic for the CCTV on the left as there was no need to touch it, drivers wanted it on the right because that is where it was on their train.

Of course expectations are something to take very seriously, the trouble is of course that there is very limited commonality between trains, particularly as this train is for two different networks.







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![](_page_22_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_23_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

And it proved great for group discussion that involved a diverse range of stakeholders. Much of the debate came from the two train operating companies. Each had different expectations based on legacy vehicles and slightly different task distributions with guards.

Excellent mechanism for group discussion

![](_page_25_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

- Stakeholder engagement
- Challenge initial concerns
- Fast iteration
- Stakeholder consensus

This then formed the basis for the final control layout. The approach was incredibly useful as it made sure that each stakeholder had a voice, and perhaps more importantly understood why the final configuration was the way it was. We were able to challenge initial concerns by asking drivers to play out common tasks Within a few hours we were able to reach a happy consensus

![](_page_26_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Step 5. Ergonomic mock up

The next stage of the development process was to up the fidelity of the mock up by building something a little more representative out of wood. The aim here was to get something that was spatially accurate but lacked the detail and finish of the final train. Controls at this stage were limited to print outs.

![](_page_26_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### EHF2015.ppt

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_1.jpeg)

After a few iterations of the wooden mock up we moved on to develop a cab that was intended to very closely represent the final cab. We used production seats switch gear and controls, while the main structure was wood painted to give a representative finish.

![](_page_30_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_2.jpeg)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-WDSWWCtxI

![](_page_32_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Control based static assessment

We used a structured approach looking at each of the 87 cab controls in turn assessing it for its visibility, reach, suitability, and risk of inadvertent operation

### DCA

		Pre-asses	sment catego	prisation			Assessmer	nt comments			
Control	Location	Frequency	Dynamic	Risk	Visibility	Reach	Suitability	Risk of inadvertent operation	Posture	General	Action
Uncouple button	Centre panel	Low	Static	Min	Fine to see	Leaning in to get to it - should be two hand operation		No risk due to cover	Infrequent no more than 4 times in a shift		Look at functional operation of buttons is inadvertent operation with other coupling a problem
Sanding button	Centre panel	Medium	Dynamic	Medium	Clear	Could be slightly closer push and hold		Might confuse with train wash at low speed			Look at bringing the sander button down the panel
Snow brake	Centre panel	Low	Dynamic	Medium	Can't read in a braking , fine normally	Easy to read	Good	Low, nothing nearby , nothing to catch	Noissues	Should be blue	
Acknowledge (AWS)	Centre panel	High	Dynamic	Medium	In primary line can't miss it	Fine - good relationship with PBC	Good	No consequence	Noissues		
Acknowledge (ETCS)	Centre panel	Low	Dynamic	Medium	Fine clear of AWS unique colour	fine	Clear of other controls	Might hit AWS but that's fine			
AWS sunflower	Centre panel	High	Dynamic		Glare from AWS - shiny surface - seems rather small					Not facing driver	Look at recessing
Emergency brake (driver)	Centre panel	Low	Dynamic	Medium	Primary - related to controller	Lean in slightly to reach it	Clear what it is	Well clear of other controls		Can't tell if it has been pressed - limited height difference between deployed and not	

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_1.jpeg)

### **Detailed HTA development**

Alongside the static assessment we wanted to explore how the cab layout met the requirements of the driving task. The first stage of this was to develop a task model. Rather surprisingly, we struggled to find anything in the public domain that described the driving task. As a result we had to create a Hierarchal Task Analysis of our own based on training materials and discussions with train drivers. The resultant model contained :

- 551 Nodes
- 387 Child

Start up

•

· Routine driving tasks

Contractory.

- Departure
- Transit
- Stop train
- Arrive at station
- Departure from a station
- Drive from standing position
- Manage communications
- · Unit disposal
- Emergency situations

### Task-based sequenced assessment

The HTA then informed the task based assessment. Each task was read out in turn and the driver performed it, after each activity they were asked to report any comments, good or bad.

Renumber							
				_			
				Parent		<u> </u>	
		Level	Reports to	or child	DI	Sequenced	C
	Description	(auto)	(auto)	(auto)	rian	assessment	Comments assessmnet 1
1	Driving task	1	-	Parent			
1.1	Start-up	2	1	Parent			
1.1.1	Boarding	3	1.1	Parent			
1.1.1.1	Locate cab	4	1.1.1	Child		No	
1.1.1.2	Enter cab	4	1.1.1	Parent			
1.1.1.2.1	Enter from platform	5	1.1.1.2	Parent			
1.1.1.2.1.1	Use keys to unlock train cabin door	6	1.1.1.2.1	Child		No	
1.1.1.2.1.2	Open train cabin door	6	1.1.1.2.1	Child		No	
1.1.1.2.1.3	Enter train cabin	6	1.1.1.2.1	Child		No	
1.1.1.2.2	Enter from ballast height	5	1.1.1.2	Parent			
1.1.1.2.2.1	Use keys to unlock train cabin door	6	1.1.1.2.2	Child		No	
1.1.1.2.2.2	Open train cabin door	6	1.1.1.2.2	Child		Yes	Handle seems a little far into the middle of the door
1.1.1.2.2.3	Switch on lights	6		Child		Yes	Hard to find light switch
1.1.1.2.2.4	Place bag in train	6	1.1.1.2.2	Child		Yes	
1.1.1.2.2.5	Climb up	6	1.1.1.2.2	Child		Yes	
1.1.1.2.2.6	Enter train cabin	6	1.1.1.2.2	Child		Yes	Width fine good hand rails
1.1.1.2.2.7	Close cab door	6		Child		Yes	
1.1.1.3	Store luggage	4	1.1.1	Parent			
1.1.1.3.1	Store coat	5	1.1.1.3	Child		Yes	On rear coat hook to make it clear of switches
1.1.1.3.2	Store bag	5	1.1.1.3	Child		Yes	Bybin
1.1.2	Aux start up	3	1.1	Parent			
1.1.2.1	Turn on Aux power	4	1.1.2	Parent			
1.1.2.1.1	Press the Aux On pushbutton for 10 seconds (back wall)	5	1.1.2.1	Child		Yes	
1.1.2.1.2	Ensure the TMS begins its self test	5	1.1.2.1	Child		Yes	
1.1.2.2	Check the main reservoir pressure is 7 bar or rising	4	1.1.2	Parent			
1.1.2.2.1	If or when the main reservoir pressure has reached 7 bar ensure the driver's seat has risen and is fully operational	5	1.1.2.2	Child		No	
1.1.3	Perform pre-seated checks	3	1.1	Parent			
1.1.3.1	Check switches on back wall	4	1.1.3	Parent			
1.1.3.1.1	Safety System isolation switches are in the normal position	5	1.1.3.1	Child		Yes	
1.1.3.2	Check all Cab MCB's are set BR-ATP or ETCS mode (located on cab back	4	1.1.3	Child		Yes	
1.1.3.3	Confirm if in BR-ATP or ETCS mode (located on cab back wall)	4	1.1.3	Child		Yes	
1.1.3.4	Check auxiliary equipment	4	1.1.3	Parent			
1.1.3.4.1	Check all Emergency Equipment is present and security sealed as appropriate	5	1.1.3.4	Child		Yes	

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_1.jpeg)

The task of building the task model was relatively time consuming; however once created, it proved to be a very efficient way of assessing the cab and ensuring that a suitable range of tasks had been considered.

We also found the task based assessments gave us some interesting insights that we missed on the static assessment.

If anyone is interested in more detail we published a description of the approach in the Journal of Rail and Rapid Transport Original Article

### A practical approach to evaluating train cabs against task requirements

![](_page_38_Picture_7.jpeg)

DOI: 10.1177/0954409714555534 pif.sagepub.com

(\$)SAGE

Daniel P Jenkins<sup>1</sup>, Lisa M Baker<sup>1</sup> and Carl Harvey<sup>2</sup>

#### Abstract

The link between train cab design and driver performance is well established. Physical assessments of cabs for reach and visibility have, for many years, been key considerations in cab arrangement. As such, techniques for performing assessments based on anthropometric models and reach and vision envelopes, are well defined. On a cognitive level, however, there is less prescriptive guidance. This paper describes a structured approach for assessing a train cab against task requirements. The assessment is divided into two stages; the first assesses the location of each of the cab controls in turn against their frequency of use, functional grouping, and risk of inadvertent operation. The second assesses the abaginats toutine tasks based on a hierarchical task analysis model. Although both methods have their relative merits, the taskbased assessment was found to reveal additional insights, based on the sequence of operations, which were not detected in the static assessment.

#### Keywords

Rail, train, cab design, control layout, hierarchical task analysis, cognitive tasks

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#### Introduction

Well-designed cabs take account of both the physical and cognitive needs of the driver. Historically, guidance on appropriate driving postures and control layouts have been dominated by the anthropometry of the drivers.<sup>1-6</sup> On a physical level, controls should be arranged so that they are clearly visible and readable by the target population. Likewise, they should also be arranged to ensure that driving tasks do not require poor postures that may result in musculoskeletal injuries.

As discussed by Tichon<sup>4</sup> the task of train driving is becoming more complex and progressively dominated by cognitive and perceptual skills. As such, the cognitive aspects of the driving task play an increasingly important role. Cab layouts should ensure that controls are easily identifiable, and that the mode of actuation is highly intuitive, with minimal risk of confusion or inadvertent operation. Controls can be assessed individually based on simple heuristics. The shape, colour and location of the controls can each be controlled to reduce the probability of inadvertent operation. This was clearly articulated in the work of Chapanis5 who, by retrofitting aircraft controls with shape-coded controls, removed all instances of Boeing B-17 aircraft pilots mistaking flap controls for landing gear.

In the case of the B-17 hombers, Chapanis was able to devise an effective and low cost means of retrofitting the existing driving environment. However, this represents the exception rather than the rule. Late changes to existing designs often come at considerable cost and result in compromised solutions. Given the costs associated with late design changes and rework, an approach is required that is better able to predict potential lissues early in the design process. Furthermore, beyond the absence of error, a welldesigned cab that considers both the cognitive and physical aspects of the task should result in improved usability and, in turn, greater efficiency and reliability.

As previously stated, the use of anthropometric models and heuristic checklists is commonplace, largely due to their effectiveness in identifying potential issues at an early stage of the design process. Both approaches focus on the functions to be performed in the cab, rather than the tasks undertaken. To do

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![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_1.jpeg)

### **Glare** assessment

We were a little surprised that no standard approach to assessment was available. So we spent a little extra time developing one.

The approach we adopted was very simple, for the internal assessment, we blacked out the windows and assessed any instances of glare from the internal lights and illuminated controls and displays. For external, it involved taking a very bright light and repositioning it around the cab to represent a range of external light sources

- 25 windscreen locations
- Side windows
- Side door windows

![](_page_40_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Impact of mitigations

Reduced internal glare Reduced glare along top of console Reduced glare from side window with film

![](_page_42_Picture_4.jpeg)

1 – Unbearable

3 - Disturbing

5 - Just Acceptable

2

4

6

	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	
Light location	De Boer score	De Boer score	Difference
Screen pos 1	3	3	0
Screen pos 2	3	3	0
Screen pos 3	2	4	-2
Screen pos 4	5	7	-2
Screen pos 5	6	5	1
Screen pos 6	3	3	0
Screen pos 7	3	3	0
Screen pos 8	1	3	-2
Screen pos 9	3	5	-2
Screen pos 10	6	7	-1
Screen pos 11	3	3	0
Screen pos 12	1	3	-2
Screen pos 13	1	2	-1
Screen pos 14	5	3	2
Screen pos 15	6	6	0
Screen pos 16	2	3	-1
Screen pos 17	1	3	-2
Screen pos 18	1	2	-1
Screen pos 19	3	3	0
Screen pos 20	6	7	-1
Screen pos 21	3	3	0
Screen pos 22	3	4	-1
Screen pos 23	3	5	-2
Screen pos 24	6	7	-1
Screen pos 25	7	7	0
Left side	2	3	-1
Left door	9	9	0
Right side	2	5	-3
Right door	9	9	0

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

It is a subjective rating, so there are certainly some limitations to the approach; however, it was found to be a very effective way of identifying issues in a relatively quick time frame.

If you would like to read more about the approach and its limitations, we published this in Applied Ergonomics.

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A practical approach Daniel P. Jenkins <sup>a,*</sup> , Lisa DCA Design International 19 Church Stree Hitachi Rail Europe, 7th Floor, 40 Holbarn	n to glare assessment for train cabs
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#### 1. Introduction

Regardless of the mode of transport, be it trains, planes or automobiles, the link between cab or cockpit design and driver performance is clear. A well designed train cab provides reach to all controls, good visibility of well organised controls and instruments, and a suitable view of the external environment.

Well designed cabs have an established positive impact on safety, reliability and efficiency. On a physical level, cabs that provide suitable driving postures reduce the likelihood of a range of driver discomfort and musculoskeletal injuries. On a cognitive level, he layout of the cab has a clear link to performance.

To negate the need for modifications after the train is put into service; an iterative design process should be employed to optimise the design. In addition to reducing the need for rework, identifying potential issues early in the design cycle greatly reduces the overall cost of design. Designs typically start as CAD models and are evaluated through 2D projections and 3D digital models (e.g. Summerskill et al., 2008). As the design develops, simple, lowresolution models are normally built to allow the design to be explored in true 3D. Given the costs associated with the design of a train, full size mock ups are also usually built. These non-functional

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(D.P. Jenkins).

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models have representative controls and finishes allowing the cab to be assessed before committing to the full production version of the train,

Throughout the design process, some aspects of the cab are easier to assess and demonstrate than others. Reach envelopes and mannequins based on anthropometric data (e.g. Aduitdata, 1998), can be used to assess the suitability of the design for the target user group. 2D projections can be used demonstrate reach and visibility of controls. Likewise, in terms of external visibility, standards exist (CM/RT2161 Requirements for driving cabs of railway vehicles, 1995) that describe largely unambiguous test criteria for assessing forward visibility. As such, while each of these aspects of the design, it is relatively simple to devise and test against test criteria to demonstrate the suitability of the design.

When attention is turned to assessing glare, however, the means of assessment is less clear. While it is a widely acknowledged concern (RSSB, 2009; Fullerton, 2009; Thompson et al., 2013), there are no prescribed methods for its assessment.

1.1. What is glare?

Glare is described in ISO 9241-6 as:

"Condition of vision in which there is discomfort or a reduction in the ability to see details or objects, caused by an unsuitable distribution of range of luminance, or to extreme contrast".

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_2.jpeg)

### Train formation

The design includes first and standard class seating areas, wheelchair spaces and Universal Access Toilets, and Space Saver Toilets

![](_page_46_Figure_4.jpeg)

### Step 1 – Contractual & regulatory requirements

The main requirements for the passenger areas come from a document called the Persons with Reduced Mobility Technical Specification for Interoperability (PRM TSI). Along with the Train Technical Description (TTD)

![](_page_47_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Steps 2&3

As with the cab, we tried to summarise the requirements pictorially wherever possible, we added additional anthropometric data where appropriate to perform CAD assessments.

The great thing about the PRM TSI regulations is that they are, in most cases, measurable and testable, removing much of the subjectivity.

![](_page_48_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_2.jpeg)

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### Step 5 – Ergonomic rigs

We then developed a more detailed rig of the toilets

![](_page_50_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_0.jpeg)

...and the saloons which were evaluated with passenger groups

![](_page_51_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_56_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Step 7 – Compliance demonstration

The final stage was to demonstrate compliance, this was largely done against drawings; however, the mock up proved an invaluable part of demonstrating the more subjective aspects of the design

![](_page_57_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Picture_0.jpeg)

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