

New Trains Arriving 2020

Fact sheet 1: Getting on and off the train

The new trains will be safer than the ones they replace in a whole host of ways; new features will make the Merseyrail network the most accessible of any traditional rail network in the UK.



Fig. 1 Designed for our network

Designed for our network:

The design of the new trains, along with upgrades to the track and platforms, will mean it's easier and safer for passengers to get on and off by themselves.



Fig. 2 Step-free access for everyone

Step-free access for everyone:

One of the pioneering new features, and a UK first, is a sliding step which will align with the platform, meaning step-free access for all passengers. This will be a game-changer for cyclists, people with push-chairs or lots of luggage and passengers using wheelchairs.



Fig. 3 Driver controlled operation

Driver controlled operation (DCO):

DCO means the driver is responsible for the opening and closing of the train doors and train dispatch. Cameras along the outside of the train will mean that the entire length of it can be viewed to ensure there are no risks at the platform edge, both before starting train departure and while the train is leaving the station –something that is not possible on the existing Merseyrail trains.

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Fig. 4 DCO continued

DCO continued:

A PA system means the driver can speak to passengers on the platform who may be in danger or who are preventing safe departure of the train.

The regulator, the Office for Rail and Road (ORR), considers DCO a safe method of working with the right systems and processes in place and so does the Rail Safety Standards Board (the RSSB).



Fig. 5 Door illumination

Door safety:

'Sensitive edge technology' means the doors can detect the 'pull' from something as small as a child's finger or a tie, which will stop the train from moving.

A traffic light door illumination system, will indicate when the doors are opening and closing and when it's safe to get on and off the train. Door closure is also signalled by an audible alarm.