

Definition of series and determination of historic rights.

Date: 16 September 2025

Status: Version 1.1

The initial slot request is the key milestone for the allocation of (series of) slots for a new IATA season. The Historic Baseline Date (HBD) is the milestone to create the baseline that is used to evaluate the compliance to use-it-or-lose-it rules. It is therefore crucial that on both sides of the routes operated by the airlines, the series that will be eligible to obtain historic rights at the end of the season are determined on the same basis. But the European Slot Regulation and the WASG leave room for interpretation. In the past decades a practice has arisen with differences between coordinated airports. This may create distortion of competition between airports or airlines.

Therefore, several European coordinators have developed this guidance with the objective to promote that the determination of historic rights is done in a harmonised manner, guided by the prime objective of airport slot coordination to ensure the most efficient declaration, allocation, and use of available airport capacity. It will optimise benefits to consumers, considering the interests of airports and airlines.

This guideline harmonises processes as much as necessary and provides leeway where this serves the primary objective of airport slot coordination.

Historic rights can only be assigned to series of slots (not to individual slots). It's therefore crucial to first define a series of slots and second determine the calculation method of the historic rights, based on which the SHL can be drawn up. The structure of this document consists of these 2 parts. Both parts are inextricably linked.

Part 1: Definition of “series of slots”.

Definitions of the WASG and the European Slot Regulation.

WASG

*A **series of slots** is at least 5 slots allocated for the same or approximately same time on the same day-of-the-week, distributed regularly in the same season.*

European Slot Regulation

Art.2.(a) ‘slot’ shall mean the permission given by a coordinator in accordance with this Regulation to use the full range of airport infrastructure necessary to operate an air service at a coordinated airport on a specific date and time for the purpose of landing or take-off as allocated by a coordinator in accordance with this Regulation

Art.2.(k): ‘series of slots’ shall mean at least five slots having been requested for the same time on the same day of the week regularly in the same scheduling period and allocated in that way or, if that is not possible, allocated at approximately the same time

The definitions of slots and series are important at HBD and for series created or extended after HBD, because this milestone is the reference point for the evaluation of the compliance of the usage of slots for the determination of historic rights and the creation of the historic lists (SHL) for the next equivalent season.

Interpretation (based on primary objective of slot coordination: efficient use of capacity):

- a. “5 slots” means minimum 5 consecutive weeks or fortnight weeks. (other patterns may be accepted by coordinators when can be demonstrated as being regular)
- b. A valid series of slots can be composed of several periods each of minimum 5 consecutive weeks at the same time on the same day-of-week provided the series of slots are for the same service.
- c. The same time must be seen within the context of the coordination parameter for the airport. Coordinator should publish the coordination parameter used as reference for its definition of “same time” on the coordinator’s website.
- d. The definition of a slot for the purposes of determining a series held at HBD means “operating an air service (...) on a specific date and time (...)”. A series of slots at HBD is recognized by being the same direction (Dep/Arr), origin/destination, day-of-week, and same time as defined. Coordination software identifies series by flight number, airlines are required to use unique flight numbers for each series at HBD. Changes in flight numbers or other attributes (within the coordination parameters and tolerances described in this document) made after HBD do not affect historic eligibility of the slot series.
- e. Post HBD changes are permitted with the tolerances described in this document.
- f. For the calculation of compliance with use-it-or-lose-it rules, series that are potentially eligible for historic rights are identified and confirmed at HBD.

- g. Historic rights of the series (UIOLI rules) are evaluated on the sum of the slots contained in the series across all periods of minimum 5+ weeks recognised as being part of that series/air service.

Examples:

Below examples are provided as guidance for the determination of historic rights and the composition of the Slot Historic List (SHL).

Series - Example 1	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
HBD		31 weeks																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	

Series - Example 7	Weeks																														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HBD	5					10										16															
Potencial historic	period 1 (serie 1)					period 1 (serie 2)										period 2 (serie 1)															

UIOLI compliance calculated on two different series
Series 1: 21 weeks (5+16)
Series 2: 10 weeks

Series - Example 8	Weeks																														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HBD	6							24																							
Potential historic	Serie 1							Serie 2																							

UIOLI compliance calculated on two different series
Series 1: 6 weeks
Series 2: 24 weeks

Part 2: Usage of series of slots (use-it-or-lose-it rule).

Air carriers must operate 80% of the slots allocated to a series of slots it holds at HBD to be granted historic rights of the series as allocated at HBD for the next equivalent season. But, for various reasons, the carrier may decide to adjust its program to changing conditions, as well as changing consumer demand.

1) use-it-or-lose-it (UIOLI) calculation: examples.

UIOLI - Example 1	Weeks																															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
HBD	14														16																UIOLI compliance 30 weeks	
Operated	14														16																30 Ops > 80%	
SHL	period 1														Period 2																	

UIOLI - Example 2	Weeks																														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HBD	5					24																									
Operated	X	1	X	X	1	24																									
SHL	5					24																									

UIOLI compliance on 29 weeks

26 Ops > 80%

UIOLI - Example 3	Weeks																														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HBD	5					24																									
Operated	X	X	X	X	X	24																									
SHL	5					24																									

UIOLI compliance on 29 weeks

24 Ops > 80%

Series - Example 4	Weeks																																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
HBD					5																													
Potential historic					period 1 (serie 1)																													
SHL					period 1 (serie 1)																													

UILOI compliance calculated on two different series
Series 1: 21 weeks (5+16)
Series 2: 10 weeks

Series 1: Ops >80%
Series 2: Ops >80%

Series - Example 5	Weeks																																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
HBD					5																													
Potential historic	X	X	X	Op	Op																													
SHL					period 1 (serie 1)																													

UILOI compliance calculated on two different series
Series 1: 21 weeks (5+16)
Series 2: 10 weeks

Series 1: Ops >80%
Series 2: Ops >80%

Series - Example 5.1	Weeks																																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
HBD	5					10										16																	
Potential historic	X	X	X	Op	Op	period 1 (serie 2)										X	X	X	13														
SHL	NO HISTORIC					period 1 (serie 2)										NO HISTORIC																	

UILOI compliance calculated on two different series
Series 1: 21 weeks (5+16)
Series 2: 10 weeks

Series 1: Ops <80%
Series 2: Ops >80%

2) New series allocated after HBD:

Ad-hoc slots allocated after HBD are allocated on a non-historic basis. However, slots requested as a series but initially allocated on an ad hoc basis, which form a series by the end of the season, may be eligible for historic precedence. For a series of slots newly allocated after the Historic Baseline Date, the number of slots in the series on the date of first allocation forms the basis of the use-it-or-lose-it calculation.

3) Structural changes (5 or more consecutive slots):

Changes of slots for five or more consecutive weeks. Changes like time, number of seats, aircraft type, origin/destination, service type, flight number will not affect historic eligibility of the slot series but may impact the attributes of historic flights as distributed at SHL.

a) **Calculation of compliance to use-it-or-lose-it:**

The change does not affect the calculation of use-it-or-lose-it. The calculation is made on the number of slots of the original series as held at HBD.

Examples:

STRUCTURAL CHANGE (>=5weeks)																																					
Series change after HBD Example 1	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
HBD		31 weeks																															UIOLU compliance 31 weeks				
Changes after HBD		change 5 weeks				21																					change 5 weeks					Calculation does not change					
		5																										5						UIOLU compliance 31 weeks			
Operated		X	X	Op	Op	Op	21																					Op					Op	Ops	X	X	
SHL		5					21																					5						historic granted to allocated			
or		31 weeks																															all periods aligned to most allocated				

STRUCTURAL CHANGE (>=5weeks)																																						
Series change after HBD Example 2	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
HBD		31 weeks																															UIOLU compliance 31 weeks					
Changes after HBD		change 5 weeks					21																					change 5 weeks						Calculation does not change				
		5																										5						UIOLU compliance 31 weeks				
Operated		X	X	X	X	X	21																					X					X	X	X	X		More than 20% cancellations
SHL		NO HISTORIC																																				

- b) **Determination of historic rights in SHL**: the decision is influenced by the availability of the slots in the “historic baseline”.
- Between SHL and Agreed SHL the airline can discuss the possibilities with the coordinator to provide consumers with convenient schedules that meet demand and are consistent from one season to the next.

4) **Ad hoc changes (out of the day of operation):**

Tolerance window:

The guidance is that ad hoc time changes of up to +/- **59** minutes* off the HBD time are counted towards the use-it-or-lose-it rule.

Changes outside of this window are counted like cancellations as “not operated” for the use-it-or-lose-it rule.

Note: Time changes made during the day of operation do **not** impact the use-it-or-lose-it rule.

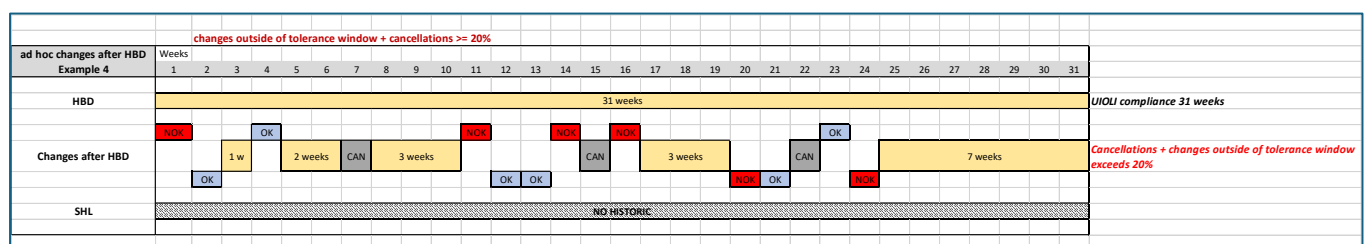
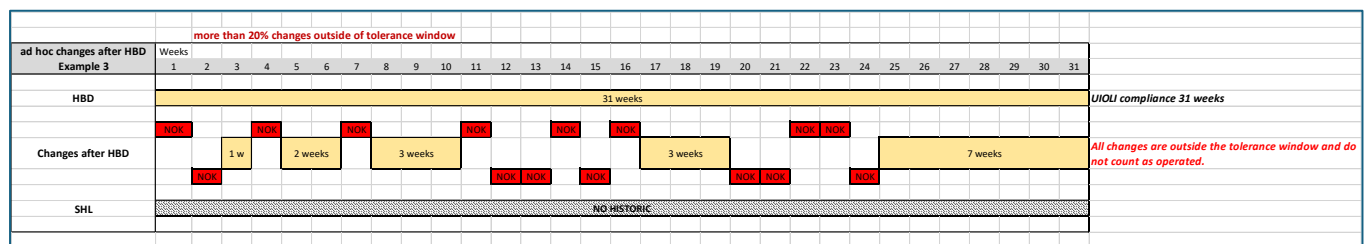
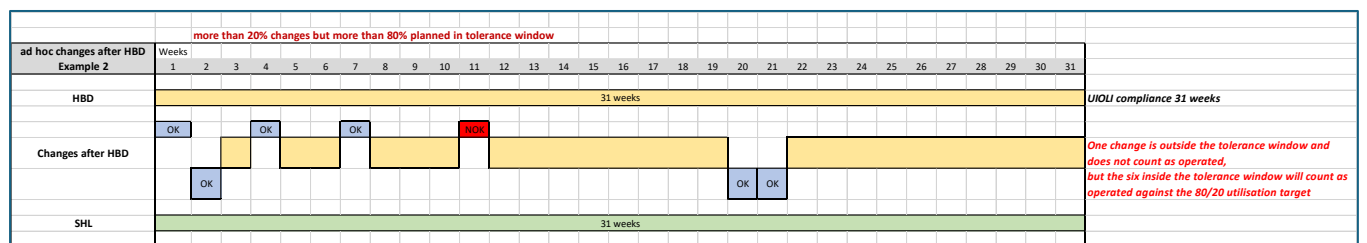
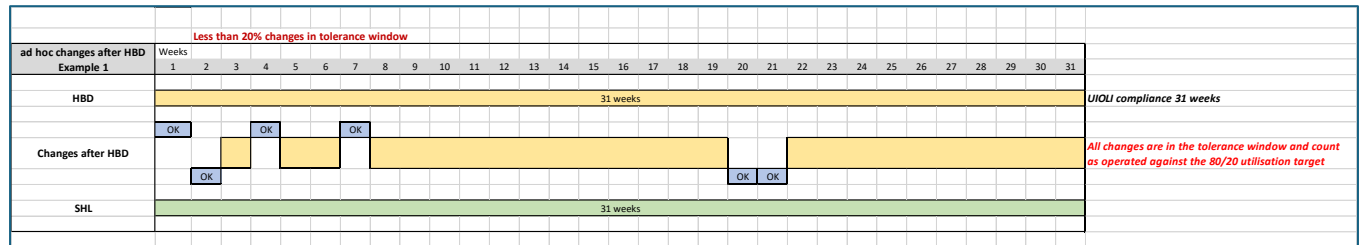
Important clarification: COHOR refers to the tolerance window **only** in the context of planned time changes made **prior to the day of operation**.

Remark: In this document, the tolerance window applies only for the planning of operations. Deviations in actual operations (punctuality) are part of the slot enforcement.

**Remark: By exception, the coordinator may deviate from the guidance. Coordinator should publish the “tolerance window” on the coordinator’s website.*

Examples:

Legend for ad hoc changes:	OK	flight is in tolerance window and counts as operated against 80/20
	NOK	flight is outside tolerance window and does not count as operated against 80/20
	CAN	flight is cancelled and does not count against 80/20



Remark:

Airlines cannot use the tolerance window to gain historic rights for series or services that were not operated 80% as allocated at HBD.

Example:

Usage of flexibility to gain historic rights for unused series - FORBIDDEN																																				
Weeks		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
Changes made after HBD		ALL SERIES IN SAME TOLERANCE WINDOW																																		
HBD Series 1		X	X	X																												X	X	X	CAN < 20% but slot operated less than 80%	
HBD Series 2					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	CAN < 20%	
HBD Series 3												X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	CAN < 20%	
HBD Series 4																			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	CAN < 20%	
HBD Series 5																																			X	CAN < 20%
HBD Series 6																																			X	CAN < 20%
SHL result																																				
HBD Series 1		NO HISTORIC RIGHTS																																		
HBD Series 2																																				
HBD Series 3																																				
HBD Series 4																																				
HBD Series 5																																				
HBD Series 6																																				

5) Slots allocated on ad hoc basis after HBD:

Coordinators will consider the extension of existing series as ad hoc new allocation. Slots allocated on an ad hoc basis are not eligible for historic precedence. However, slots requested as a series but initially allocated on an ad hoc basis, which form a series and have been operated as a series by the end of the season, may be eligible for historic precedence. Coordinator discretion will be applied.

Suggestion: contact your dedicated agent in advance to request the series extension evaluation.

Examples:

Merging series by adding ad hoc dates																																												
ad hoc changes after HBD Example 5	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31												
HBD		period 1 (12 weeks)														3 weeks			period 2 (8 weeks)																	UIOLI compliance 20 weeks								
Changes after HBD		period 1														3 weeks			period 2																	Calculation does not change UIOLI 80% of 20 weeks								
SHL		period 1														if available and operated			period 2																	left to discretion of coordinator								
or SHL (optional) (if capacity available)		One series - 23 weeks																																										left to discretion of coordinator

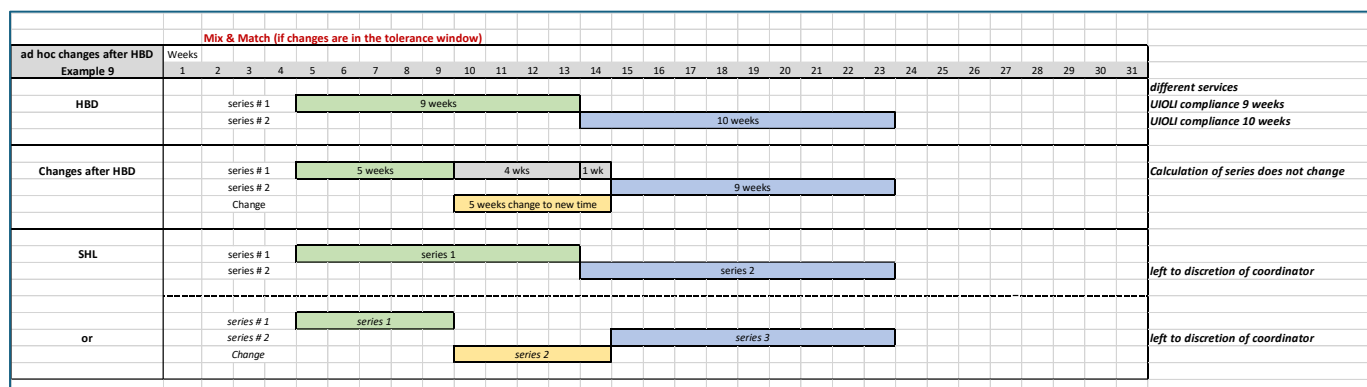
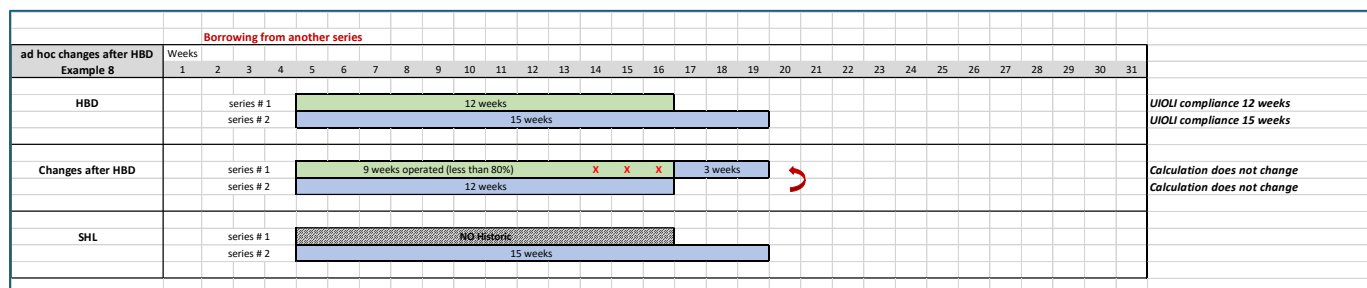
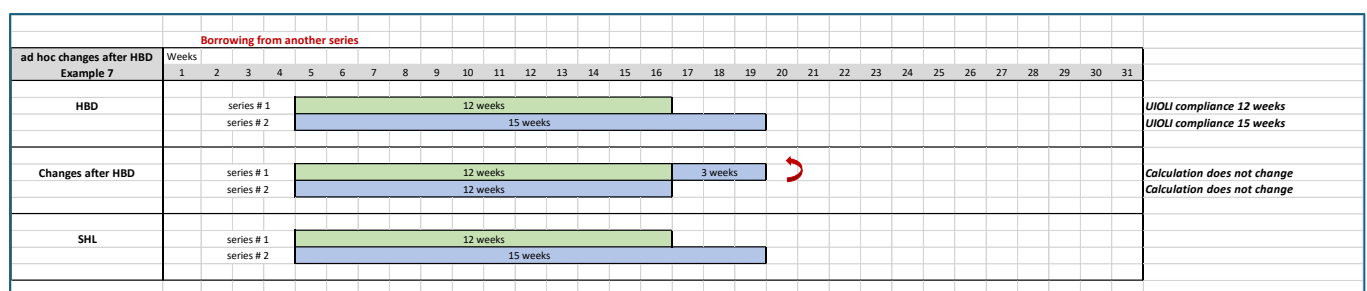
Merging series by adding ad hoc dates																																											
ad hoc changes after HBD Example 6	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31											
HBD		10 weeks										interruption >=5weeks					8 weeks																	UIOLI on 18 weeks									
Changes after HBD		series 1										5 weeks (N)					series 2																	UIOLI 18 weeks (unchanged) New series UIOLI 5 weeks									
SHL or SHL (optional) (if capacity available)		series 1										if available and operated 80/20					series 2																	left to discretion of coordinator									
		One series - 23 weeks																																									left to discretion of coordinator

6) Slots transfers after HBD:

Slots changed to complete another series do not change the compliance target of the series as hold at HBD and do not break the series.

In case of transfer of slot from one airline to another, at SHL the series returns to the airline who was operating the series, unless otherwise agreed between the parties (the two airlines and the coordinator).

If an airline holds more than one series of slots at the same time with identical or overlapping periods of operation, then the usage of each series is calculated separately.



Merging 2 different series																																		
ad hoc changes after HBD Example 10	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
HBD	series # 1																																	different services UIOLI compliance 10 weeks UIOLI compliance 10 weeks
	series # 2																																	
Changes after HBD	series # 1 & series # 2																																	Calculation of series does not change
SHL	series # 1																																	left to discretion of coordinator
	series # 2																																	
or	series # 1 & series # 2																																	left to discretion of coordinator

7) Creation of SHL lists (flexibility):

When creating the SHL, Coordinators may consolidate slots that have passed the utilisation threshold by combining the same series.

- When consolidating fragmented periods of the same service into a longer series, the "same service" means a series of slots operated for the same flight number, direction (Dep/Arr), weekday, origin/destination, and time.
- Provided that the slots periods consolidated in these series are available in the capacity defined for historic rights.
- Where the consolidation of series does not result in a loss of historic entitlement for the airline concerned.

8) Additional remarks:

- Potential misuse.
 - Request new slots or hold slots that the airline or other aircraft operator does not intend to operate may be considered as a misuse.
 - Coordinators and schedules facilitators will identify air carriers who are requesting slots in a way that they would benefit from a higher priority in the initial slot allocation. Coordinators or schedule facilitators may decide to give a lower priority level to the initial demand made by this carrier at that airport or for that series of slots in the next season. The coordinator or schedules facilitator will send a list of the cases to the Coordination Committee.
- The present guidance is subject to changes pursuant to change of regulation(s).