



# UCI Road Equipment Registration Procedure

2023 Tour de France & Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift



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## I. Introduction

### A. Purpose of the Registration Procedure

The UCI Regulations outline specific obligations aimed at promoting fair and equitable access to equipment in cycling events and ensuring a level playing field for all competitors. These obligations hold particular importance in the context of the 2023 Tour de France (*hereinafter “TdF”*) and the Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift (*hereinafter “TdFF”*). To ensure these rules are properly adhered too, the UCI has established a registration procedure (*hereinafter “the Procedure”*) for all participating teams to register the equipment they plan to use during the TdF and TdFF.

The Procedure outlined below must be followed by all participating teams to comply with UCI regulations and maintain a fair and competitive environment during the TdF and TdFF.

### B. Relevant Articles of the UCI Regulations

#### **1.3.003 ter, as from 01.01.2023**

*In order to verify compliance with the UCI Regulations of equipment that riders and teams intend to use in competition, the UCI may issue dedicated registration procedures setting out the process and requirements for equipment to be used.*

#### **1.3.006, as from 01.01.2023**

*Equipment shall be of a type that is sold for use by anyone practicing cycling as a sport.*

*Any equipment in development phase and not yet available for purchase (prototype) must be subject of an authorisation request to the UCI Equipment Unit before its use. Authorisation will be granted only for equipment which is in the final stage of development and for which commercialisation will take place no later than 12 months after the first use in competition. The manufacturer may request a single prolongation of the prototype status if justified by the relevant reasons.*

*When assessing a request for use of equipment which is not yet available for sale, the UCI Equipment Unit will pay particular attention to the safety of the equipment which will be submitted to it for authorisation...*

*...Without prejudice to prototypes (equipment not yet available for purchase), any item of equipment must be commercially available in order to be used in cycling events. The requirement of commercial availability shall be understood as equipment having to be available for purchase through a direct and publicly available order system (whether with manufacturer, distributor or retailer). Upon an order being placed, the order shall be confirmed within 30 days and the relevant equipment shall be made available for delivery within a further 90-day deadline. In addition, the retail price of the equipment shall be publicly advertised, shall not render the equipment de facto unavailable to the general public and shall not unreasonably exceed the market value for equipment of a similar standard.*

*Any equipment which is neither commercially available, nor under a valid prototype authorisation at the time of the event, may not be used. Any such unauthorised use of equipment may be sanctioned by disqualification of results obtained when using the equipment and/or a fine ranging from CHF 5'000 to 100'000.*

*(text modified on 01.11.10; 01.10.11; 01.01.17; 15.10.18; 01.01.23)*

### **C. Scope of application**

The Procedure is applicable only at the 2023 TdF and TdFF. It is important to note that while the UCI Regulations apply to other events and disciplines, it will not be enforced for other road events listed on the 2023 UCI International calendar.

### **D. Equipment to be registered (Critical Equipment)**

The following list of equipment (*hereinafter "Critical Equipment"*) must be registered as part of the Procedure.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| - Framesets (with fork & seat post) | - TT Extensions                          |
| - Wheels (front and rear)           | - Clothing <sup>1</sup>                  |
| - Handlebars / TT Base bars         | - Helmets <sup>2</sup> (standard and TT) |

For the purpose of clarity, equipment not defined in above list must still comply with all relevant UCI Regulations (including commercialisation, article 1.3.006) and the [Clarification Guide of the UCI Technical Regulations](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Skinsuits, underneath base layers, gloves, socks, shoe covers

<sup>2</sup> Visors, mounts, etc

### E. Critical Equipment identification and commercial availability

The information set out in the below table shall be requested for the purpose of the Procedure. The information shall be entered via an Online Registration Platform as specified in Step 1<sup>3</sup>.

Information to be provided by the Team	
<b><u>Equipment identification</u></b>	
Brand:	
Model:	
UCI code (if applicable):	
Size (if applicable):	
<b><u>Commercial availability</u></b>	
Distribution Channel (internet, dealer etc.) :	
Dealer contact:	
Email:	
Tel.:	
Price € (excl. TVA):	
Currently commercially available:	Yes / No
Date of commercialisation if not yet available:	
Prototype number (if applicable):	

<sup>3</sup> Teams are responsible for providing the requested information via the Platform. Teams may ask for their access to be extended to manufacturers with a view to the latter providing the required information on behalf of the Team. Any such provision of information by a manufacturer shall be under the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Team.

## F. Application of RFID Tags on Framesets

For the purpose of bike identification during both the TdF and TdFF, an adhesive RFID Tag measuring (W) 43mm x (H) 18 mm and a protective silicone cover will be applied to the area shown in Figure 1. This area has been selected to conceal the RFID Tag from the view of the general public and protect it from potential damage caused by high-pressure cleaning solutions.

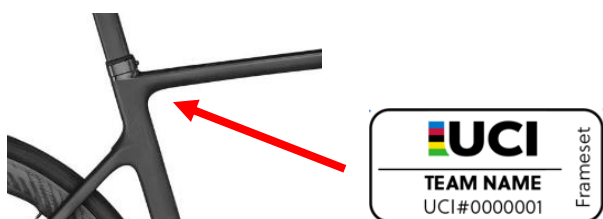


Figure 1

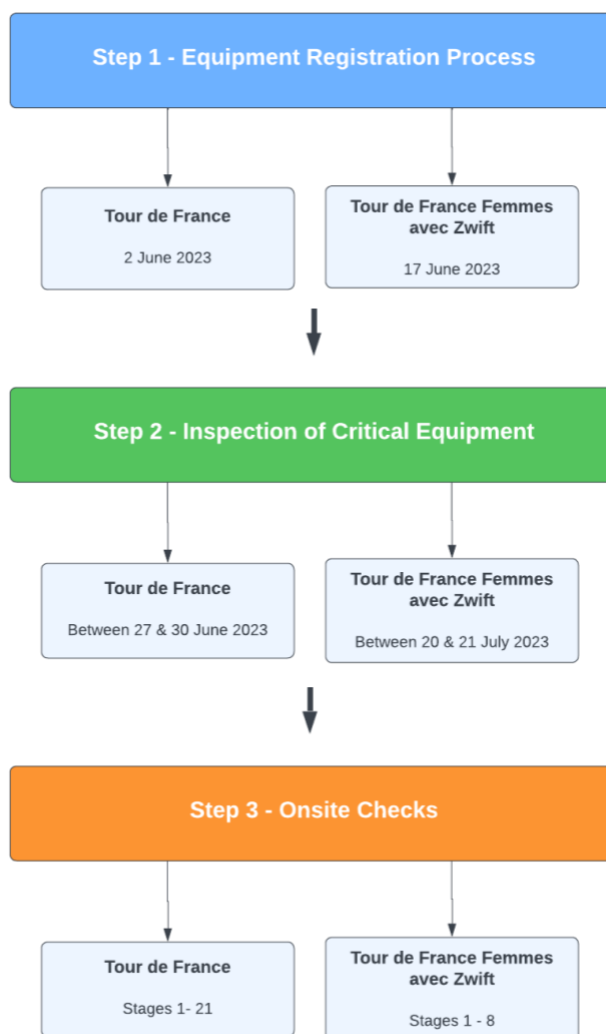
All Road and Time Trial framesets intended for use in the TdF and TdFF, including spares, must be fitted with an RFID Tag by the UCI to ensure proper identification.

In the event that teams need to replace framesets due to unforeseen circumstances such as crashes or add framesets customized for classification leaders, they must also be identified by the UCI and fitted with an RFID Tag.

In such cases, teams must contact the Commissaires Panel. All requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## II. Registration Procedure

The Procedure contains three steps, as detailed in the illustration below.



## Step 1 - Equipment Registration Process

Each participating team is required to register the Critical Equipment they intend to use during the TdF and TdFF via the Online Registration Platform (hereinafter “the Platform”).

The deadline to register Critical Equipment is defined below:

Tour de France:	<b>Friday 2 June 2023</b>
Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift:	<b>Friday 17 June 2023</b>

Individual login credentials will be communicated to each team via email in the coming weeks.

## Step 2 – Inspection of Critical Equipment

To ensure compliance with the Procedure, any Critical Equipment that is not registered via the Platform (Step 1) will not be permitted for use during the TdF and TdFF.

To verify the registration and compliance of Critical Equipment, UCI staff members or other authorised personnel will conduct inspections as specified below.

Tour de France:	<b>Between 27 &amp; 30 June 2023</b>
Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift:	<b>Between 20 &amp; 21 July 2023</b>

Inspections of each team’s Critical Equipment will take place at their respective hotel. Further communication specifying each team’s allocated timeslot will be shared via email during the first week of June.

For the purpose of clarity, all framesets used at the TdF and TdFF must have an RFID Tag applied. For all other Critical Equipment, it shall be sufficient to present one item per model line. The equipment shall be checked for compliance to the relevant UCI Regulations and the inspection consists of, but is not limited to scanning, measuring, weighing and taking photos.



### Step 3 – Onsite Checks

UCI staff members, Commissaires and other authorised personnel may conduct onsite equipment checks during any point of the events. Checks may occur before or after stages and can involve, but limited to RFID scanning, measuring, weighing, and taking photos.

### III. Tour of Romandie test event

The UCI will conduct a trial of RFID technology during the 2023 Tour of Romandie (25th to 30th April) in preparation for the TdF and TdFF. The objective of the trial is to assess the effectiveness of RFID Tags under the conditions of stage racing, such as riding in adverse weather conditions, exposure to high-pressure cleaning solutions and bike transportation on team car roof racks.

To facilitate the trial, we kindly ask all teams to nominate 2-3 road bikes (race bikes) to be fitted with an RFID Tag. The tags will be applied to each teams nominated framesets prior to the start of the prologue or first stage (25 & 26th April). A UCI staff member will visit each team in the warm-up/start area and work alongside team personnel to apply the tags. Our aim is to minimise any disruption and carry out the application of RFID Tags as unobtrusively as possible.

The application of the RFID Tags will consist of the following:

- Preparation of the surface (cleaning) in area where the RFID Tag will be applied on the frameset.
- Application of the RFID Tag and silicone protective cover
- Assignment of the RFID Tag to the software using a handheld RFID reading device

We estimate the time required to apply the RFID Tag will be 4-5 minutes per bike.

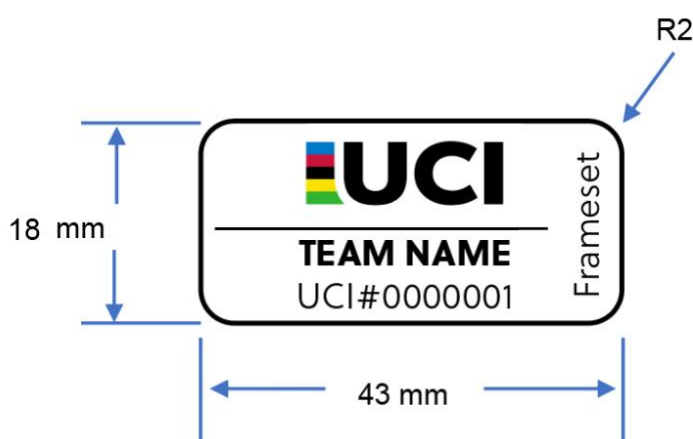


Figure 2: RFID Tag

Please note that the trial is solely for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of RFID technology and to improve our internal processes in preparation for the TdF and TdFF

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

## IV. Practical examples

The following examples have been included to provide teams with better clarity and context on the Procedure.

### **Example 1: Equipment registration and Inspection**

Team ABC wishes to use Dura-Ace C40 and Dura-Ace C60 wheels during the TdF. The wheels are commercially available as defined by article 1.3.006 of the UCI Regulations.

Team ABC registers both wheelsets on the Platform (Step 1).

During the Inspection of Critical Equipment (Step 2), Team ABC will be required to present 1x Front & 1x Rear of both the Dura-Ace C40 and C60 models. Once the both models are approved, all the Dura-Ace C40 and C60 in the team's possession can be used during the event.

### **Example 2: Piece of equipment not registered on the Online Registration Platform**

Team ABC and Sponsor X have been developing a new TT helmet together. Sponsor X asks Team ABC not to register the helmet on the Platform (Step 1) to keep it a secret until the day prior to the start of the TdF.

During the Inspection of Critical Equipment (Step 2), Team ABC presents the TT helmet. The UCI representative conducting the inspection highlights the fact that the helmet was not registered on the Platform (Step 1).

The UCI representative informs Team ABC that the helmet is non-compliant and must not be used during the TdF.

### **Example 3: Equipment not yet commercialised**

Team XYZ wishes to register a new Rear Disc Wheel to be used at the upcoming 2023 TdFF. The Disc Wheel is not yet commercially available at the time of the Step 1 registration deadline. However, the Disc Wheel will become commercially available 2 weeks prior to the start of the TdFF.

To ensure the Disc Wheel can be used, Team XYZ must register the product on the Platform before the deadline stated in Step 1. As part of the Critical Equipment inspection checks (Step 2), the commercial availability of the Disc Wheel will be verified in accordance with article 1.3.006 of the UCI Regulations. If the Disc Wheel meets the regulation's requirements for commercial availability, it will be deemed compliant and approved for use during the TdFF. However, if the Disc Wheel does not meet the requirements, it will be considered non-compliant and will not be allowed for use during the TdFF.

#### **Example 4: Requesting additional RFID Tags**

During stage 3 of the TdF, four riders from Team ABC were involved in a crash. Following the stage, the team mechanic conducts a thorough examination of the crashed bikes and determines that all four framesets needed to be replaced with spare framesets from the team truck. Fortunately, the spare framesets had RFID Tags applied during the Critical Equipment Inspection (Step 2).

However, due to the crash, Team ABC exhausted their supply of spare framesets with RFID Tags. The day after the crash, the team's sponsor delivers four identical framesets to replace the spares used from the team truck. The team mechanic promptly contacts the Commissaires Panel to request new RFID Tags for the new framesets.

A member of the Commissaires Panel reviews the request and approves it, allowing Team ABC to obtain new RFID Tags for the replacement framesets.

#### **Example 5: Requesting additional RFID Tags**

Jane from Team XYZ wins stage 2 of the 2023 TdFF earning the leader's jersey in the general classification, thanks to the time bonus. Team XYZ's bike sponsor is thrilled and quickly delivers a yellow-themed frameset of the same model registered in Step 1 to the team mechanic after the stage.

However, the yellow-themed frameset was not presented during the Critical Equipment inspection (Step 2), and therefore does not have an RFID Tag attached. The team mechanic takes swift action and contacts the Commissaires Panel to request an RFID Tag. The Commissaire and team mechanic agree to meet in the team parking area two hours before the start of the next stage.

The next day the Commissaire reviews the yellow-themed frameset and attaches a new RFID Tag in the location specified in section F of this document.

With the RFID Tag now attached, the frameset is deemed compliant for use in all subsequent stages of the TdFF.

#### **Example 6: Onsite Checks**

Prior to Stage 8 of the TdF, a member of the Commissaires Panel or other UCI authorised personnel conduct on-site equipment checks using a handheld RFID device to detect the presence of an RFID Tag. No RFID Tag is found and the Commissaire asks why. The team mechanic apologises and explains that the frameset is a special edition used by the team only for mountain stages. The mechanic also explains the team received the frameset the night prior to the stage and was not presented during the Critical Equipment Inspection (Step 2).

The Commissaire informs the team that the frameset cannot be used in any TdF stage as it was not presented during the Critical Equipment Inspection (Step 2).

#### **Example 7: Onsite Checks**

After finishing stage 6 of the TdFF, rider X is selected for a random Technological Fraud control. A chaperon attaches a red tag to her bike and accompanies it, along with a team representative, to the UCI X-Ray truck.

Prior to beginning the X-Ray control, the UCI representative uses a handheld device to check for the presence of an RFID Tag on the frameset. However, the UCI representative is unable to locate an RFID Tag and identify the bike. Upon requesting more information from the team, they explain that rider X had switched to a spare bike during the stage, which did not have an RFID Tag applied. The team had assumed that spare bikes were not required to be tagged with an RFID chip during the inspection of critical equipment (Step 2).

The UCI representative notes the situation and informs the UCI Commissaires Panel, who follows up with a further investigation and applies the appropriate sanctions and/or disciplinary proceedings.



## V. Contact information & Document Links

For all questions or advice, please contact the UCI Innovation Unit:

- Tel: +41 24 468 58 11
- E-mail: [materiel@uci.ch](mailto:materiel@uci.ch)

This document will be published on the UCI website: [Equipment | UCI](#)

## VI. Definitions

### *The UCI*

The Union Cycliste International (UCI) is the international governing body for the sport of cycling.

### *UCI Regulations*

Rules established by the UCI to govern the sport of cycling.

### *Tour de France*

The men's edition of the Tour de France (abbreviated "TdF") taking place between 1-23 July 2023.

### *Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift*

The women's edition of the Tour de France (abbreviated "TdFF") taking place between 23-30 July 2023.

### *UCI Road Equipment Registration Procedure*

A procedure established by the UCI to ensure that all participating teams register the equipment they plan to use during the 2023 Tour de France & Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift (abbreviated "the Procedure").

### *Commercially Available*

Equipment commercially available to anyone practising the sport of cycling, as defined in article 1.3.006 of the UCI Regulations.

### *Critical Equipment*

A list of bicycle components requiring registration under the requirements of the UCI Equipment Registration Procedure for the 2023 Tour de France & Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift.

### *Prototype*

Defined as any equipment in development phase and not yet available for purchase as per article 1.3.006 of the UCI Regulations.

### *Inspection of Critical Equipment*

Inspection by UCI Staff, Commissaires or other personnel appointed by the UCI. Inspections may consist of, but not limited to scanning, measuring, weighing, and taking photos.

### *RFID Tags*

Radio Frequency Identification tags attached to competitors' bicycles during the 2023 Tour de France & Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift. The tags consist of a small antenna and a microchip that stores information about the bicycle they are attached to.

### *Online Registration Platform*

The online platform provided to teams to supply requested information about the UCI Road Equipment Registration Procedure for the 2023 Tour de France & Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift. Abbreviated “the Platform”

### *Teams*

The cycling teams who participate at the 2023 Tour de France & Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift.

### *Competitors*

Individual participants competing in the 2023 Tour de France & Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift.

### *Fair and Equitable Access*

Equal opportunity to purchase equipment.

### *Adhere*

To comply with or conform to the UCI Regulations.

## Change Log

Version	Date	Changes
<b>0.1</b>	06.04.2023	Draft version
<b>1.0</b>	24.04.2023	Document formatting, grammar corrections, updated images, addition of example 7 to Section V