



## Impact on freight and passenger transport of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

### **Albania**

*Updated on 22/03/20*

From 23.59 of 22/3, the following applies:

Tirana airport suspends all flights to and from Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Hungary. Very limited connection to Istanbul is maintained.

Movement of people outside their home/household is strictly limited from 05.00h -13.00h. People can leave their home only for professional interests and for buying goods or medical supplies. From 13.00h until 05.00h of the next day, only authorised personnel can leave their home.

International and domestic passenger transport is forbidden.

Transport of goods and medical supplies is exempted from the provision, prior to authorisation.

Source: ANALTIR

### **Argentina**

*Updated on 23/03/20*

The [Decree of Necessity and Urgency](#), established on 19 March by the National Executive, has determined preventive and compulsory social isolation for the general population, but has excluded the motor transport of cargo as it is considered essential for the normal functioning of society.

It therefore ensures the flow of the transport of goods, oil, fuels and LPG, any activities related to agriculture, fishery and food production and distribution. This essential service also includes the home delivery of food, medicines, cleaning and hygiene products and other necessities, as well as the collection, transport and treatment of urban, hazardous and pathogenic solid waste.

FADEEAC recommends reducing staff to a minimum, leaving in place a dedicated team to enable the smooth operation of each company until 31 March. These might include administrative workers or mechanics, among others. According to FADEEAC, it is also important to remember that based on previous experience, complications may arise in some parts of the country with the application of these rules, and that in this instance some jurisdictions may apply exceptional measures and restrict freight transport operations.

That is why the FADEEAC COVID19 Crisis Committee is available to provide legal support and assistance to resolve any doubts and discuss potential conflicts detected by carriers along the country's routes. To request information and for enquiries or complaints about irregular situations, contact the CRISIS Committee FADEEAC COVID19 via Whatsapp message only, +549 11 37649391, 7 days per week, from 08:00 to 22:00.

Source: FADEEAC

### **Austria**

*Updated on 20/03/20*

- [Restrictions](#)

Austria has reintroduced temporary border controls at the borders with Italy. The temperature of drivers and their recent activities are systematically checked (measure valid for the next 10 days).

Austria is also prohibiting rail transport from Italy (valid until 3 April). This measure does not apply to freight transport.

- Relieves

Throughout Austria, the weekend traffic ban for heavy goods vehicles above 7.5 tonnes will be suspended until 3 April 2020 with immediate effect. This measure has been discussed and coordinated with Italy and Bavaria in order to avoid border waiting times as much as possible.

The driving bans for trucks over 7.5 tonnes to the Klängenbach and Deutschkreutz (Burgenland) border crossings have also been lifted to relieve [pressure from the Nickelsdorf border point](#).

At the Austria-Hungarian border:

- Border crossings to be used by international freight traffic departing from or ending in Hungary:
  - o Hegyeshalom / Nickelsdorf.
  - o Sopron / Klängenbach (transiting vehicles over 7.5t allowed until 05:00 on 20 March).
  - o Kópháza / Deutschkreutz (transiting vehicles over 7.5t allowed until 05:00 on 20 March; vehicles over 7.5t with Austrian or Hungarian licence plates permitted until 00:00 on 23 March).
  - o Rábfüzes / Heiligenkreuz
- Border crossings to be used by AT-HUN bilateral freight transport (in addition to the three mentioned above):
  - o Bucsu / Schachendorf.
  - o Koszeg / Rattersdorf.
  - o Rábfüzes / Heiligenkreuz.

In addition, the government has announced a temporary relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for drivers in order to eliminate bottlenecks caused by the current crisis. The measures lifted are those in Articles 6 to 9 of the [EU Regulation No. 561/2006](#). This exception applies from 16 March 2020 to 14 April 2020. Measures lifted are the following:

- Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;
- Art. 6(2): replacement of the maximum weekly driving limit of 56 hours with one of 60 hours;
- Art. 6(3): replacement of the maximum fortnightly driving limit of 90 hours with one of 100 hours;
- Art. 7: replacement of the minimum daily breaks requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours;
- Art. 8(2): Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours;
- Art. 8(6): Weekly rest period of at least 24 hours after six 24-hour periods.

Further details can be found in the [Regulation](#).

Source: AISÖ

## **Azerbaijan**

*Updated on 10/03/20*

Good transport operations between Azerbaijan and Iran is now normal. Accompanied road transport (complete truck combinations with driver) are allowed to cross the border.

Passenger transport is still restricted.

Source: IRU Istanbul office

## **Belarus**

*Updated on 13/03/20*

All foreign and Belarusian citizens entering the territory of the Republic of Belarus through border crossing points are subject to a continuous primary sanitary and epidemiological control.

People arriving from countries with unfavourable epidemical situation (currently it is from China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Japan) must be tested (the test result is available in 12 hours). In case of symptoms of a respiratory illness (fever over 37.1 ° C, coughing and others), people arriving from these countries are isolated and hospitalized.

There are currently no restrictions on the movement of vehicles, goods and passengers across the borders of the Republic of Belarus (except for the sanitary checks and the filling on an arrival form).

Hotline telephone number of the Republican Center for Hygiene of Epidemiology and Public Health: +375 (29) 156-85-65 (working days from 8:30 to 13:00 and from 13:30 to 18:00).

Source: BAMAP (from the Ministry of Health and the State Border Committee of Belarus)

*Updated on 19/03/20*

With effect from 19 March 00.00, drivers non-resident in the Republic of Belarus engaged in international transit operations through the territory of the Republic of Belarus can only use selected areas for rest, meals and refuelling vehicles. A detailed list with locations can be found on this [map](#).

Source: [Ministry of transport and communications of the Republic of Belarus](#)

## **Belgium**

*Updated on 19/03/20*

- **Restrictions**

The Belgian government took additional measures on 17 March 2020 introducing further measures to encourage teleworking and closing all non-essential stores (only pharmacies, food stores and newspaper stores remain open) to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Measures are valid until 5 April 2020. The objective is to limit public gathering.

These measures have no consequences for international freight transport and drivers. However, a number of companies have been forced to close because they are unable to respect the social distancing rules or are short of material to continue the production process.

For passenger transport, the social distance measure of 1.5m must be respected for all types of collective transport of passengers still operational and allowed, including public bus transport. In line with the advice regarding unnecessary journeys abroad, all coach services are in a lockdown phase. As schools have been closed, all related transport has been suspended, apart from schools requiring transport to respect their duty of day care for children from families working in key roles, such as health care workers. The professional training for driving licences or continuous education, and even MOT control have been suspended and appropriate measures are taken to waive the potential validity violations.

- **Relieves**

Minister of transport announced a temporary and complete tolerance concerning the enforcement of driving and rest times for drivers involved in the transportation of food, medication and other life

essential goods to shops and pharmacies. This measure has been taken on the basis of article 14.2 of the [EU Regulation 561/2006](#) and applies from 14/03/2020 at 00:01 until 31/03/2020 at 23:59. More detailed information is available [here](#).

Sources: FEBETRA, FBAA and Official News Agencies

## **Brazil**

*Updated on 23/03/20*

IRU member NTC & Logística has reported that in spite of the critical situation in Brazil, and considering the crisis ahead, all entities representing road freight transport and logistics are committed to sharing as much information as possible with transporters:

“We are monitoring all measures being taken by public and private agencies in relation to traffic, working conditions, preventive measures for the health and safety of employees and service providers, the closing of establishments, problems and difficulties in fulfilling their transportation contracts, restrictions of any kind and all measures of an economic nature that are being studied by the government, in all areas.

The situation calls for organised planning and responsibility in guaranteeing the supply of essential items concerning public health, i.e. items in relation to personal hygiene, medicines, food and hospital supplies, as well as other priorities.

We are aware of the concern of businesses in the sector and their desire to maintain that business, along with jobs and their financial commitments, and we confirm that we are in constant discussion with the government on all levels.

The link below accesses a guide to actions that can be taken by companies in relation to labour issues, which will be updated as the government discloses new legislative measures on this matter: [Coronavirus Specific Legislation Impacting Operations.](#)”

Source: NCT & Logística

## **Bulgaria**

*Updated on 19/03/20*

- Restrictions

In a new order, from 00:00 on 20 March 2020 until 17 April 2020, the Minister of Health has temporarily prohibited entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria of all third country (non-EU) nationals through all border crossing points by all means of transport. Transport personnel engaged in the transport of goods are excluded from the scope of this order.

The prohibition of entry of EU nationals from Italy, Spain, France, UK, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland and the respective arrangements for drivers coming from these countries, previously announced, remains in force.

Bulgarian citizens, as well as persons with either long or permanent residence in Bulgaria, and their families, are exempt from this ban. They will be subject to a 14-day quarantine either at home or any other accommodation of their choice.

A special regime has been arranged for the truck drivers (official decree [here](#)):

- Bulgarian truck drivers are also subject to the 14-day quarantine, unless they are returning to one of the countries on the list. In this instance they must remain in quarantine until they leave;
  - Non-Bulgarian drivers - citizens of the above countries or coming from them - can load and unload goods, but should then immediately leave the territory of Bulgaria. In the case of transit, the transit operation should be done within 24 hours;
  - In addition, according to an additional order published by the Ministry of Health, entry and transit of trucks registered and coming from the Islamic Republic of Iran are temporarily forbidden.
- Relieves

The Bulgarian government granted temporary tolerance concerning the enforcement of driving and resting times for drivers under the [EU Regulation 561/2006](#) to the national and international transport of goods. This exception applies from 19/03/2020 00:00 to 16/04/2020 24.00. Measures lifted are the following:

- Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;
- Article 7: replacement of the minimum daily breaks requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours;
- Art. 8(6): reduction of the regular weekly rest period from 45 hours to 24 hours.

Source: AEBTRI

## **China (People's Republic of)**

*Updated on 20/03/20*

The epidemics control on domestic cases is stabilising in China, but the Government is maintaining stringent measures to avoid cases imported from foreign countries.

### Overview of the situation at land borders for goods transport operations:

- Borders with Kyrgyzstan are closed,
- At borders with Tajikistan, Chinese customs only allow Chinese citizens to pass,
- At borders with Kazakhstan, from China side, no compulsory quarantine requirements on non-Chinese truck drivers entering into China, but regular business operations have been severely affected:
  - o Alashankou BCP has resumed TIR transport since February, the operations are normal,
  - o The auxiliary services in Khorgos have shown signs of re-opening for business. However, due to the control measures applied in Kazakhstan, very few operations are taking place,
- At Erenhot, bordering Mongolia, freight operations are possible, but normal operations have been severely affected. Quarantine measures are compulsory for all those entering into China. Truck drivers are exempted from the quarantine control,
- At Manzhouli, bordering Russia, freight operations are possible, but normal operations have been severely affected. Quarantine measures are compulsory for those entering into China from 34 countries. Russian drivers are exempted from the quarantine control.

### Overview of the situation at land borders for passenger transport operations:

According to a notice published on 20 March by The State Council of The People's Republic of China, China will suspend cross-border road transportation for passengers and hold back inbound and outbound tourist services as part of a broader effort to curb the importation of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases from 20 March until further notice.

Sources: National Immigration Administration, Chinese Customs and <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202003/20/WS5e740aa9a31012821728095b.html>

## **Colombia**

*Updated on 23/03/20*

International air transport flights for passengers are suspended from 23 March to 23 April. This suspension includes both arrivals and any connecting flights. National air transport flights will be suspended with effect from 24 March.

The transportation of passengers by road will be suspended with effect from 24 March, with the exception of passengers providing services related to the production of food, public services or the health service.

Urban transport is continuing to operate, although in lower volumes and with strict sanitation standards regarding vehicle washing and the state of health of drivers.

Taxi services are continuing to operate, but only those requested through mobile applications or by telephone.

Source: CST

## **Croatia**

*Updated on 17/03/20*

The Republic of Croatia has taken new measures on March 13<sup>th</sup> to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country. Foreign nationals coming from countries identified as particularly at risk will be put in a compulsory 14-day quarantine or will be required to get into a 14-day self-imposed isolation.

Special restrictions apply for transport operations: all foreign drivers coming from Italy, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Bahrein, Iran, Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, UK, the Netherlands, Sweden and the Bela Krajina region (Slovenia), except for drivers in transit, will be put in a compulsory 14-day quarantine in Croatia.

Foreign drivers are warned at borders that they can turn back to avoid the quarantine. Long waiting times are currently observed at borders. There are partial Serbia-Croatia border closures (see Serbia).

Sources: National Minister of Foreign Affairs and Association of Croatian Road Carriers

## **Czech Republic**

*Updated on 22/03/20*

- Restrictions

The Government has announced a "state of emergency" with a set of bans and limitations, including (as of 14/03 0:00h):

- Foreigners coming from high risk countries (unless permanent residents) are temporarily banned to enter in the national territory. High risk countries are: Italy, France, Spain,

Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, UK, Belgium, Austria, China and South Korea,

- Prohibition for Czech citizens and foreign permanent residents to travel to high risk countries,
  - The international transport of passengers by bus is stopped from March 14<sup>th</sup> 00:00 a.m (exemption for foreigners being transported out of the Czech Republic and Czech citizens being brought home, or empty buses. This temporary exemption will stop come to end on 16<sup>th</sup> March (0:00) when the general prohibition to travel to and from the Czech Republic will start to apply),
  - International freight transport is exempt of the restriction. However, only major border crossings with Austria (Dolní Dvořiště, České Velenice, Hatě Mikulov) and Germany (Strážný, Pomezí n.O., Rozvadov, Folmava, Žel. Ruda, Krásný Les, H.Sv. Šebestiána) will remain open.
- Relieves

Note that the Ministry of Transport, Czech Republic, has granted a general exemption from the driving restrictions on motorways and class I roads in the Czech Republic for trucks and combination vehicles with an MPW of over 7.5 tons and trucks and special vehicles with trailers, if an MPW of the motor vehicle exceeds 3.5 tons. The exemption is valid from 15:00 on 13 March 2020 for the time the state of emergency is in force, but not longer than one year.

In addition, the government announced on March 16<sup>th</sup> a temporary tolerance concerning the enforcement of driving and resting times for drivers involved in all transport of goods on all Czech territory. Measures lifted are the ones in articles 6 to 9 of the [EU Regulation No. 561/2006](#). This exception applies from 16/03/2020 (00:00) for a period of 30 days.

On 22 March, a critical situation was reported on the CZ/SK borders due to drivers taking the 45 min. rest in the right lane blocking the access to the border crossing. Drivers are asked to take the rest elsewhere or to postpone it.

Sources: CESMAD BOHEMIA and Czech Police

## Denmark

*Updated on 22/03/20*

- Restrictions

The Danish government has indicated on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> (evening) that the Danish borders will be closed for entry into Denmark unless a reasonable purpose can be demonstrated (note that tourism is not deemed legitimate). The new measure will be enforced from 14/3 at 12.00 and is in force up to and including April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Transport of goods will still be possible. All channels of freight transport by road, sea, rail and rail will be kept open without any other control than the normal customs/passport controls on random basis. However, international freight transport (including transit) by road should be operated through the following border crossing points: Frøslev, Sæd or Kruså. Please note that Kruså border crossing point is not accessible for vehicles above 3.5 tonnes. It is recommended for trucks to use Frøslev (E45) border crossing point. Border crossing at Padborg, as well as other smaller border crossing are closed. Freight operations can also be operated through the "blue border" (Øresundbridge and ferries).

- Relieves

National derogations from the weekly rest periods has been extended in Denmark until 11 April (included). Measures lifted are the ones in article 8.6 of the [EU Regulation No. 561/2006](#), but all

other articles apply. The exemption only applies to national transport. Further information can be found [here](#).

The leading Danish transport and logistics associations have prepared a list of recommendations for the receipt and shipping of freight. The document contains recommendations for transport companies, professional drivers, consignors and consignees and is available in [English](#), [German](#) and [Polish](#) and [Romanian](#).

Sources: ITD, DTL and DI Transport

## **Estonia**

*Updated on 18/03/20*

The government has decided to restrict the crossing of the Schengen internal and external border temporarily, and to reintroduce border controls in order to contain the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Only citizens of Estonia and holders of Estonian residency permits (or rights of residence) can enter Estonia, as well as foreign citizens with family members living in the country.

International road freight is exempt.

Foreigners are allowed to transit Estonia if travelling to their home country as long as they are not showing symptoms of COVID-19.

At the border control, travel documents and medical symptoms will be checked.

There are no restrictions for exiting the country.

The border control was reintroduced on 17 March 2020. The temporary restriction of border crossing will be in force until further notice, and the situation will be reviewed every two weeks.

Source: ERAA

## **Finland**

*Updated on 19/03/20*

The Finnish Government is restricting traffic at borders from 19 March 2020, 00:00. People returning to Finland will be subject to 14 days quarantine.

Inbound passenger transport operations are suspended, except for citizens and residents returning to Finland. Finnish citizens and residents must not travel abroad.

Necessary travel for work and to access other necessary services will be permitted across the northern and western borders. Freight and goods traffic will continue as usual. Updated situation at borders:

- Helsinki–Vantaa, Mariehamn and Turku airports will be kept open for goods and return traffic. Border guards may allow travel for work if there is a necessary and justified reason. Other airports will be closed to international traffic.
- At the international border crossing points of the eastern border, traffic and opening hours will be restricted.
- Passenger traffic via the *Vainikkala* border crossing point will be suspended.
- Road and rail transport:



- Imatra, Kuusamo, Niirala, Nuijamaa, Rajajooseppi, Salla, Vaalimaa and Vartius border crossing points are only for goods transport, and returning home to/from/via Finland for Finnish and other EU citizens as well as citizens of the Russian Federation.
- Inari, Parikkala and Vainikkala border crossing points are only for goods transport.
- At the border between Finland and Norway, Kilpisjärvi, Karigasniemi, Kivilompolo, Nuorgam, Näättäjä and Utsjoki will be kept open for goods and return traffic. In addition, necessary travel for work and other necessary traffic may be permitted. Crossing the border is not permitted elsewhere.
- At the Finnish–Swedish border, Karesuvanto, Kolari, Muonio, Pello, Tornio and Ylitornio will be kept open for goods and return traffic. In addition, necessary travel for work and other necessary traffic may be permitted. Crossing the border is not permitted elsewhere.

Although cross border commuting is not prevented, the reduction in air and sea traffic will make it significantly more difficult for foreign workers to enter Finland from abroad. In the case of EU citizens and people with a permanent residence permit in another EU country who are returning to their home country via Finland, such travel will be allowed, taking into account the person's state of health.

Detailed measures are available [here](#).

The Finnish government issued instructions to the border guards relating to which travel is allowed crossing the internal Schengen and the external borders. The following categories are distinguished: people returning Finland, people transiting through Finland on the way back to another country (Schengen, non-Schengen and third countries) and necessary cross-border work and other traffic. The latter two categories include workers (mobile and non-mobile) in the transport sector and workers commuting between two countries and are allowed to travel without restrictions. Detailed information relating to the travel conditions are available [here](#).

Source: FinMobility

## **France**

*Updated on 23/03/20*

- **Restrictions**

As from 17 March, 12:00, and for 15 days, new measures have entered into force to limit activities and public gatherings in order to limit the effect of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. A national lockdown has been declared. People are allowed out only in cases of emergencies, to buy food or for work (a [written document](#) must justify any movement). Freight transport is exempt from the movement restrictions.

Confusion has arisen regarding whether a certificate to justify movements for professional purposes (*justificatif de déplacement professionnel*) is also required for non-French professional drivers. These certificates are available in French and English and can be downloaded [here](#). Pending official confirmation, IRU recommends that all professional drivers take such a certificate with them to avoid unnecessary penalties.

Only the Schengen area borders are being closed for the next 30 days (external borders of the European Union).

On 20 March 2020, the French Government published a number of additional requirements for passenger transport by bus, coach and taxi, and road freight transport:

- Bus and coach
  - Vehicles must be disinfected once per day.

- The front door of multi-door vehicles can no longer be used by passengers, unless the driver is completely protected by a transparent barrier.
- The social distancing rules must be displayed on the vehicle.
- Tickets are no longer sold on board.
- Taxi
  - Passengers can no longer sit next to the driver.
  - The driver can refuse passengers with visible symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.
- Road freight transport (conditions are applicable to drivers and staff at loading and unloading points)
  - Social distancing rules must be observed.
  - Where there is no access to water, disinfectant gel must be made available.
  - No personal contact is allowed when signing contracts.
  - Goods can only be delivered at the place indicated on the transport document.
  - Home delivery is only possible by leaving the goods at the door. No physical contact with the customer is permitted.
  - Delays for complaints about the delivery have been set.

- Relieves

Following considerable disruption on the road encountered by road freight transport and logistics operators following the announcement of the lockdown, the French Government has issued new measures to facilitate freight transport. These include guarantees for access for freight transport and logistics workers to their workplace and to loading and unloading places, extra protection for freight transport and logistics workers and a derogation to keep stores, restaurants and sanitary facilities open at service stations. The text of the announcement can be found [here](#). A map showing restaurants that are open is available [online](#). The French Government has also issued a [map](#) to inform truck drivers on the service stations which are open and which offer essential services (such as sanitary facilities and take away restaurants). This map also gives information on which vehicle technical centres are open.

In addition, a decree was published on 20 March 2020 which lifts the weekend traffic bans for heavy goods vehicles until 20 April 2020. More details can be found [here](#).

According to a [decree published on 20 March](#) and an official e-mail answer seen by the IRU and following the confirmation by IRU's Member Associations in France, FNTR and AFTRI, we inform that a crew of two drivers in the cabin is allowed in France (but not a crew of three), as long as the minimum distance of 1 meter is respected.

The following temporary relieves apply:

- Daily driving times extended to 10 hours a day. Drivers can also choose to drive for 11 hours a day for a maximum of two days during a week
- Extension of weekly driving times to 60 hours a week and 102 hours on two consecutive weeks, provided such extensions respect legal provisions on driving and rest times applicable to drivers.

Sources: AFTRI and FNTR

## Germany

*Updated on 20/03/20*

- Restrictions

As of 16 March, 08:00, Germany has been re-introducing temporary border controls at the borders with Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxemburg and Denmark. Access at these borders must be performed via dedicated border crossings. For a full list of these border crossings please refer to this [link](#).

The following groups of persons may continue to enter German territory via the borders with Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxemburg and Denmark:

- persons with German nationality.
- persons with a German residence permit.
- persons with residence in Germany.
- professional commuters, regardless of their nationality - proof of commuting status should be carried (template for a commuter certificate [here](#)). Seasonal workers, EU parliamentarians and accredited diplomats may also enter the country.
- persons who have urgent reasons for entry - proof of urgent reasons should be carried. The Federal Police make individual decisions at their discretion.

In addition to the above, and most relevant for our profession:

Cross border movement of goods remains guaranteed. BGL is not aware of any cases where cross border goods transports have been refused entry into Germany via the above mentioned borders.

The following groups of persons will be refused entry onto German territory via the borders with Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxemburg and Denmark:

- persons who do not belong to any of the above mentioned groups allowed to enter German territory.
- persons who show symptoms of illness - in these cases, the competent health authority will be consulted immediately.

More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

*Situation in rest and service areas on German motorways:*

- In rest and service areas operated by the TANK & RAST group, use of the SANIFAIR sanitary facilities free of charge since 17.03.2020, with the objective of ensuring drivers' access to crucial hand hygiene. Free access to the SANIFAIR sanitary facilities is granted via the "children's entry" and will be explicitly signposted. TANK & RAST group is operating 330 of the rest and service areas on German motorways and drivers should look for the TANK & RAST symbol.
- TANK & RAST have also announced that they will keep open not only the petrol stations but also the attached shops (bakery products, snacks, retail) at all rest and service areas operated by them.
- BGL is in contact with all remaining providers of motorway rest and service areas to ensure ongoing services and access to sanitary facilities with suitable opening times for all German rest and service areas on motorways. This subject is also being discussed with the Ministry of Transport on the highest political level.

- Relieves

The Federal Government of Germany has asked the Länder to suspend the weekend traffic bans of truck movements to ease the situation during the crisis. BGL has provided an overview of the situation in the different regions [here](#).

In addition, it has been decided at Federal level on a temporary relaxation of driving and rest times rules based on Article 14.2 of the [EU Regulation 561/2006](#). The measure applies to road transport

of goods of daily necessities, including food, medical equipment and fuel, and is valid until 17 April, included. Measures lifted are the following:

- Possibility to extend driving time to 10 hours five times per week.
- Possibility to take two consecutive reduced weekly rests within a period of four weeks.

The measure applies to professional and own account transport. More information [here](#).

Sources: BGL (from [Federal Government](#)) and German Minister of Internal Affairs

## **Georgia**

*Updated on 19/03/20*

As part of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) preventive measures, the Government of Georgia has made a decision to impose restrictions on the entry of foreign nationals. The restrictions are effective from 18 March 2020, 00:00, and will remain in force for two weeks.

*The restrictions will apply to all foreign nationals, with the exception of:*

- Representatives of diplomatic missions and international organisations accredited to Georgia, and their family members;
- Family members of Georgian citizens, despite their nationality (spouse, child or parent; relevant documents must be presented);
- Persons arriving in Georgia as part of a necessary humanitarian mission (ie. doctors, volunteers);
- Individuals who have been granted the status of stateless person by the respective authorities of Georgia;
- Individuals holding status-neutral travel documents;
- Individuals with a refugee status in Georgia;
- Official delegations - this will be decided on a case-by-case basis;
- Train and truck drivers involved in the transport of goods and services;
- Aircrew.

The Head of the Government of Georgia has noted that there are 4 areas of critical significance which must be managed effectively in order to combat the challenges faced.

One of these areas is logistics and stock management. In this regard, and in order to ensure the smooth running of freight road transport, trucks entering the country from areas designated by the WHO as a high-risk zone will have to comply with the following rules:

- the complete disinfection of the truck under the supervision of authorised customs personnel;
- the escort of trucks to their destination (in the case of transit);
- the replacement of the driver at the border crossing point:
  - the original driver (the person driving the vehicle to the customs border of Georgia) will either be subject to return (if he is a foreign citizen), or quarantined/admitted to the relevant medical institution depending on his clinical condition;
  - the truck driver taking over the operation should not be considered a risk to the spreading of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- the replacement of the truck and trailers, if deemed necessary.

Sources: GIRCA and [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia](#)

## **Greece**

*Updated on 23/03/20*

- Restrictions

On 22 March 2020, the Greek Prime Minister announced that Greece will impose a national lockdown as of 23 March 2020, 06:00.

*Passenger Transport:*

- The movement of Greek citizens is heavily restricted within Greek territory. Special written permission is required under certain circumstances. For people going to/from their place of work, an attestation form from their employer is required ([attached in Greek only](#)).
- Foreign citizens are not allowed to enter Greece.
- Greek citizens returning to Greece from abroad must self-isolate at home for 14 days.
- Most international flights to/from Greek airports have been temporarily cancelled.

*Goods Transport:*

- Goods transport is exempt from all restrictive measures.
- All borders are open for international transport operations.
- Truck drivers are exempt from self-isolation.
- In some cases a Locator Form may be required by port authorities when entering Greece. Truck drivers will be given the form and asked to complete and sign it. The form requires personal and family contact details ([attached in English](#)).
- Currently, it remains unclear whether foreign transport operators/drivers will be required to have an attestation form from their employer (as in point 1 of Passenger Transport above). OFAE has requested further clarification from the Greek authorities on this point.

- Relieves

Temporary relaxation of [EU Regulation No. 561/2006](#) or AETR

Valid from 19.03.2020 until 18.04.20 (inclusive):

- Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours.
- Art. 6(2): replacement of the maximum weekly driving limit of 56 hours with one of 60 hours.
- Art. 7: replacement of the minimum daily break requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours.
- Art. 8(1): reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours.
- Art. 8(6): postponement of a weekly rest period beyond six 24-hour periods.

Source: OFAE

## Hungary

*Updated on 21/03/20*

Hungary has closed its internal and external borders for passenger transport operations with effect from 00:00 17 March. Hungarian citizens and close relatives travelling with them (including those not resident in Hungary) will still be allowed to enter the country.

MKFE has communicated its vision of the situation at border crossing points [here](#) (last update on 21/03 afternoon).

MKFE and the Hungarian Government are doing everything possible to ensure continuous and unhindered cross-border freight transport operations.

Source: MKFE

## Ireland

*Updated on 19/03/20*

- Restrictions

The Irish Government have issued special advice about travelling, including restricting movements for 14 days on those entering Ireland who have been to affected areas. Freight transport is exempted. The government published a [guidance note](#) for supply chain workers. This document contains about one and half pages of useful guidelines for drivers.

To reduce the risk of infection, the ferry company Seatruck Ferries has temporarily stopped shipping any HGV drivers or any other passengers in their Irish Sea vessels. Accompanied road transport (complete truck combinations with driver) is then stopped until further notice, but the company will continue to carry unaccompanied semi-trailers, containers and swap bodies.

- Relieves

In response to the extraordinary crisis due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Ireland has agreed to a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times rules for the drivers of vehicles engaged in domestic and international goods transport. This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 561/2006](#) and applies from 18 March 2020 and will run until 16 April 2020, provided that road safety is not affected [impaired] when transport companies make use of these exemptions. Employers remain responsible for the health and safety of their employees and other road users. For the above mentioned category of drivers, the following provisions will be temporarily relaxed as follows:

- Derogation to Art. 6(3): the fortnightly driving limit is lifted from 90 hours to 112 hours.
- Derogation to the Art. 8(6): in any two consecutive weeks a driver shall take at least two reduced weekly rest periods whilst maintaining the rule that a weekly rest period shall start no later than at the end of six 24-hour periods from the end of the previous weekly rest period. There shall be no requirement for compensation or for a regular weekly rest period to be taken.

Source: IRHA

## Italy

*Updated on 22/03/20*

- Restrictions

The Prime Ministerial Decree dated 22 March 2020 was issued concerning "Further implementing provisions of the decree - 23 February 2020, no. 6, containing urgent measures regarding the containment and management of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19". This decree applies to the entire national territory, and also applies to regions with special statutes, and to the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano.

Particular attention is drawn to the below:

- Art. 1.1b: People cannot use public or private means of transport to reach a different municipality from the one they are currently in, with the exception of work or health reasons or in cases of extreme urgency.
- Art. 1.4: Non-essential companies have until 25 March to prepare for suspension; this includes the shipment of goods in stock.

This decree takes effect from 23 March 2020 and is effective until 3 April 2020. In addition, the Prime Ministerial Decree of 11 March 2020 and the ordinance of the Minister of Health of 20 March 2020, both effective from 25 March 2020, are both extended to 3 April 2020.

All non-essential industrial and commercial production activities are suspended, with the exception of those mentioned in Annex 1 of the text. The decree's (*pdf file [here](#) – IT – official translation not available*) general rules, in Annex 1, specify the production activities and services that can continue with their activity (ATECO Codes - <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/17888>).

It is recommended that road freight transport and logistics companies check with their customers/clients based in Italy to verify whether their activity is among those included in Annex 1 and can therefore continue working.

Previous decrees important for road freight transport activities include:

On 17 March, the government released a [new version of the certificate](#), by which the declarant also affirms that they are not quarantined. The State Police confirmed [the document cannot be presented digitally](#) (apps or pdfs), but has to be printed, signed and given to the police officer. Photocopies of a completed document are not accepted either.

On 18 March, the Transport Ministry [published a new decree](#): 14 days mandatory isolation for people entering the country. Such a decree does not apply to road transport workers delivering or transiting through Italy, provided they leave the country after 72 hours.

- Relieves

The Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport has signed a decree suspending the current traffic ban for HGVs with a maximum total mass exceeding 7.5 tons on extra-urban roads, on the 2 days of 15 and 22 March 2020. Note that for vehicles performing international transports, the suspension of traffic restrictions is to be maintained until further notice. The text of the decree is available [here](#).

The Italian government also published a [decree 18 of 17/3/2020](#) (so-called "Cura Italia") to address this crisis. It allows for an extension in validity of a number of road transport-related authorisations and certificates, as well as extensions for the payment of customs duties.

Some elements mentioned are:

- Art. 92.3: the date for payment of customs duties due between 17/3 and 30/4 can be extended until 30/5 without additional interest charges.
- Art. 92.4: vehicles that are due to be checked before 31/7/2020 can now remain in circulation until 31/10/2020.
- Art. 103.1: certificates, attestations and permits expiring between 31/1/2020 and 15/4/2020 are now valid until 15/6/2020.
- Art. 104.1: Identity documents and driving licences expiring after 17/3/2020 are now valid until 31/8/2020

Sources: Italian Government, Italian Ministry of transport, Ministry of Interior and Sardinia Region, FIAP

## **Jordan**

*Updated on 15/03/20*

The Kingdom of Jordan has taken measures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Between the set of measures, it has been announced that:

- airlines are closing flights from and to Jordan as of March 17<sup>th</sup>,
- land borders with the West Bank, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia are closed for passengers transport. Goods are allowed to pass.

Source: RACJ

## **Kazakhstan**

*Updated on 18/03/20*

Following a state of emergency declared in Kazakhstan, effective from 08.00, 16 March, the State Border Service has provided guideline for entities involved in import/export operation.

During the emergency period, crossing the states borders by drivers and vehicles engaged in international road transport operations will be allowed only if they meet the following conditions:

- international goods transport by road is performed in compliance with the quarantine and sanitary-epidemiological standards;
- drivers, regardless of citizenship, must use foreign passports to cross the state border;
- in case of arrival at the border crossing point for entry to the territory of Kazakhstan (including for transit) of drivers [from countries of categories 1a\) and 1b\)](#), as well as drivers of other countries who visited [countries in categories 1a\) and 1b\)](#) within [last 15 days](#), cargo will be allowed for entry only if a driver is replaced at the territory of the border crossing point in compliance with quarantine and sanitary-epidemiological standards or the truck(tractor) is replaced with a Kazakh one.

The border crossing points listed [here](#) have been specified for international road transport of goods.

Source: KAZATO (<https://www.kazato.kz/posts/chrezvychnoe-polozhenie-v-ps-knb-sdelali-zayavlenie>)

## **Latvia**

*Updated on 21/03/20*

The Cabinet of Ministers published a decision stating that, with effect from March 17<sup>th</sup>, no passenger transport will be allowed through airports, ports, by bus and by rail (excluding carriage of passengers by official aircraft and military transport). The Ministry of Transport can make exceptions for some international passenger services based on a case-by-case basis.

The carriage of goods is allowed. However, from 18 March 2020, people entering Latvia will have to fill out the following application forms and submit them to the State Border Service:

- Form for Latvian citizens, and persons permanently residing in Latvia (holders of permanent/temporary residence permits and long-term "D" visas, provided they were issued in the Republic of Latvia).  
The form is available in [Latvian](#), [Russian](#) and [English](#).
- Form for Lithuanian and Estonian citizens and residents (holders of permanent/temporary residence permits and long-term "D" visas, provided they were issued in Lithuania or Estonia), returning to Lithuania or Estonia.  
By signing the form, the person "undertakes not to visit publicly available spaces". Parkings and refuelling station are not concerned by these measures.  
The form is available in [Russian](#) and [English](#).
- Form for all freight carriers (including foreigners transiting through Latvia), by which the person "undertakes not to visit publicly available spaces". Parkings and refuelling station



are not concerned by these measures.

The form is available in [Latvian](#), [Russian](#) and [English](#).

Source: LATVIJAS AUTO

## **Lithuania**

*Updated on 20/03/20*

Coming into effect on 16 March, 00:00, the Lithuania Government has announced a two-week nationwide quarantine (third level of the national plan).

Lithuania has reintroduced restrictions at the borders of Poland and Latvia. With effect from 14 March, foreign nationals are not permitted to enter the country by any means of transport. Exceptions are in place for persons residing in the Republic of Lithuania, and persons employed within Lithuanian companies, and are either engaged in the international commercial transport of goods, or performing an international commercial transport of goods, by any means of transport.

Foreign carriers with cargo vehicles transiting through Lithuania are permitted.

The number of border crossing points to enter Lithuania have been reduced to the following:

Kalvarijos–Budzisko, Saločių–Grenstalės, Būtingės–Rucavos, Smėlynės–Medumės, Medininkų–Kamenyj Logo, Raigardo–Privalkos, Kybartų–Černyševskojės, Panemunės–Sovetsko, Kenos–Gudagojo, Šalčininkų–Benekainių, Mockavos-Trakiškių, Lazdijų–Ogrodnikų, Vilnius, Kaunas, Palanga, Šiauliai international airports, Vilnius railway station and Stasylai railway border crossing points and Klaipeda seaport.

Border crossing for commercial and/or international freight transport is additionally carried out through Stasylai-Benekainiai railway border crossing point and Pagėgiai-Sovetsk railway border crossing point, and facilitated transit of persons from the territory of the Russian Federation to the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation and back to the territory of the Russian Federation shall additionally pass through the Kena Railroad Border Inspection Post and the Kybartai Railway Border Inspection Post.

The number of local passengers on intercity buses and trains is restricted to maintain the necessary distance between passengers.

Source: LINAVA

## **Luxembourg**

*Updated on 22/03/20*

- Restrictions

A state of emergency has been declared for 3 months but may be cancelled earlier. There are no restrictions considering transport of goods in Luxembourg, but there may be short waiting times at the borders.

The Ministry of Mobility has set out [new measures](#) for bus and coach transport in Luxembourg. The measures apply immediately and until further notice and provide for the following:

- The front door of multi-door vehicles can no longer be used by passengers
- The first row of passenger seats should remain unoccupied. The driver is requested to put up barrier tape or similar
- The driver does not sell tickets (RegioZone) anymore

- The social distancing rules must be displayed on the vehicle
- Relieves

Luxembourg has agreed on a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers involved in domestic and international delivery of goods. This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 561/2006](#). This temporary relaxation applies from 19 March 2020 and will run until 17 April 2020.

Luxembourg has made it clear that driver and road safety must not be compromised. Drivers should not be expected to drive whilst tired - employers remain responsible for the health and safety of their employees and other road users.

For the above mentioned category of drivers, the following provisions will be temporarily relaxed as follows:

- Derogation to Article 6(2): replacement of the maximum weekly driving limit of 56 hours with one of 60 hours.
- Derogation to Article 6(3): replacement of the maximum fortnightly driving limit of 90 hours with one of 96 hours.
- Derogation to Article 8(6): postponement of a weekly rest period beyond six-24 hours period.

Source: CLC

## **The Netherlands**

*Updated on 19/03/20*

Currently, the Netherlands is under a relatively relaxed Coronavirus (COVID-19) regime. Most people work from home. The government aims to have the number of infected people at the same time under control. Shops remain open although certain department stores have individually decided to close.

To enable an efficient loading and unloading procedure at shippers' premises, it is recommended that drivers take personal protection materials with them such as masks and gloves.

The associations are in communication with the government in order to safeguard restaurants and other facilities for drivers. The Ministry recommends that drivers take their meals at fuel stations. All other restaurants remain closed until at least 6 April.

There is an ongoing debate in the Dutch Parliament and it is possible that measures will become stricter in the coming days.

Sources: Evofenedex and TLN

## **North-Macedonia**

*Updated on 17/03/20*

To limit the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia has taken the decision to close all border crossings in the Republic of Northern Macedonia to foreign nationals, passengers and vehicles (with the exception of entry and transit of freight vehicles), representatives of the diplomatic corps in the country, and any other persons for whom the Ministry of the Interior grants permission to, with prior agreement of the Main Coordination Crisis Staff confirming that there is a particular state or economic interest. Goods vehicles and

persons exempt from the restriction will be allowed to enter the Republic of North Macedonia under special terms and conditions in accordance with the protocol of the Ministry of Health.

Border crossing points open for freight are the following: Bogorodica (border with Greece), Kafasan (border with Albania), Tabanovce (border with Serbia), Deve Bair (border with Bulgaria) and Blace (border with Kosovo).

Source: AMERIT

## **Norway**

*Updated on 15/03/20*

- Restrictions

Everyone entering Norway by ferry, air, bus or private car, from countries other than Sweden and Finland, will be put in a compulsory 14-day quarantine (even if they are not experiencing any symptom of COVID-19). Tourists not willing to comply with this measure will have to return immediately.

International road freight is exempted. However, the exception does not apply to drivers and personnel employed by Norwegian companies, who have stayed in countries outside the Nordic countries for a period before returning to Norway (many companies work with foreign drivers working on turns).

- Relieves

The Norwegian Public Roads Administration is also granting, from March 13<sup>th</sup> and for 30 days, temporary exemptions on driving and resting time rules for freight operations involved in the transportation of food, medication and other life essential goods to shops and pharmacies. Measures lifted are the ones in articles 6 and 8 of the [EU Regulation No. 561/2006](#), but not the ones in article 7.

Source: NLF

## **Malta**

*Updated on 16/03/20*

Persons entering Malta from any other country from 13:00CET on 13 March 2020 onwards must spend 14 days in mandatory quarantine.

Up to now, Roro vessels for goods transport are running normally to and from Malta. Maltese Government has announced that as from March 17<sup>th</sup>, quarantine is also obligatory for drivers arriving with their trucks in Malta. Hence, to avoid quarantine, transport companies should ship the trailer / container unaccompanied.

Sources: Ministry of Health and ATTO

## **Moldova**

*Updated on 18/03/20*

In the Republic of Moldova, several state border crossing points are closed for an indefinite period. At present, only 17 border crossing points are operating normally:

#### At the border with Romania:

PTF Leușeni - Albița (road / international)  
PTF Sculeni - Sculeni (road / international)  
PTF Giurgiulești - Galați (road / international)  
PTF Costești- Rock (road / international)

#### At the border with Ukraine:

PTF Otaci-Moghilev-Podolsk (road / international)  
PTF Briceni-Rossoșanî (road / international)  
PTF Criva-Mamalîga (road / international)  
PTF Giurgiulești-Reni (road / international)  
PTF Mirnoe-Tabaki (road / international)  
PTF Palanca-Maiaki - Udobnoe (road / international)  
PTF Tudora-Starokazacie (road / international)

Additionally, from 17 March 2020 at 00:00, it is prohibited to cross the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border, and from 17 March 17, 2020 at 20.00, foreign nationals are prohibited from entering the Republic of Moldova from Romania using state border crossing points open to traffic.

This restriction does not apply to foreign nationals and stateless persons domiciled or permanently / temporarily living in the Republic of Moldova, drivers and service personnel involved in the transport of freight, aircraft / ship crews and train crews. In addition, staff of diplomatic missions and consular offices based in the Republic of Moldova, and staff working at international organisations / missions and their family members are also exempted.

Source: AITA (from Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova)

## **Mongolia**

*Updated on 20/03/20*

In relation to the prevention of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Government of Mongolia is taking the following measures:

- The entry of foreign, third country citizens and stateless persons is prohibited, from 11 - 31 March, 2020;
- All international passenger air traffic and train movements are cancelled, from 10 - 28 March, 2020;
- National bus, air and rail transport are all operating normally;
- All borders remain open for the flow of goods and truck drivers.

Following its 12th meeting on 17 March 2020, the State Emergency Commission of Mongolia has introduced additional measures, which state that all foreign trucks with goods arriving at the border crossing point of Altanbulag are subject to disinfection, which will be organised on the spot by the authorities. Trucks will then be escorted by the police to the customs control zone in Ulaanbaatar, in order to perform the customs clearance formalities and to enable the delivery of goods to the consignee. Upon completion of these procedures, foreign trucks are requested to return immediately to the border crossing point of Altanbulag, and then exit the country. Please note that the new requirements are applicable to all foreign goods transport operators and trucks.

Source: NARTAM

## **Morocco**

*Updated on 16/03/20*

The country has taken strict measures to limit the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). International passenger movement is under “full ban” (air, road and ferry), with no transport operations handled between Morocco and the following countries (except special operations to let passengers get back to their country of origin): Italy, Spain, France, Austria, Denmark, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain, UAE, Oman, Jordan, Tunisia, Senegal, Mauritania, Niger, Mali, Chad, Canada and Brazil.

No limit to freight transport has been reported.

National passenger transport operations are maintained.

Sources: ASTIC and Moroccan Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Transport

## **Pakistan**

*Updated on 15/03/20*

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Ministry of Interior of Pakistan announced the complete sealing of the western border of the country with Afghanistan and Iran in order to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). This measure is taken for an initial period of 14 days with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Source: PNC-ICC

## **Poland**

*Updated on 19/03/20*

- **Restrictions**

On 13 March, the Prime Minister of Poland announced a “state of emergency”. In addition to measures to limit public gatherings, the government announced that border controls will be temporarily restored from 15 March (00:00) for 10 days (renewable). During this period:

- Foreigners will not be allowed to enter Polish national territory. All air traffic and train movements coming from abroad will be temporarily suspended.
- Polish citizens and foreigners working in Poland that are returning from abroad must undergo a two week quarantine period.
- National bus, air and rail transport will operate normally.
- International road freight transport is not included in these restrictions. Borders remain open to the flow of goods and truck drivers operating international road freight will not have to comply with the two week quarantine period. The list of border crossing points open during this period is available [here](#).

On 19 March, the Polish Minister of Health lifted the previous duty of fulfillment of driver localisation forms. In addition, according to information on the Border Guard website, quarantine is not imposed on:

- people living in Poland who work in a neighbouring country and who regularly cross the border (cross border workers).
- foreigners living in a neighbouring country who work in Poland and cross the border regularly (cross border workers).
- drivers engaged in the professional transport of goods and passengers.

Health checks are still taking place at border crossing points. Drivers with a temperature of above 38 degrees will automatically undergo a medical examination and will not be able to continue driving.

The updated border waiting times can be found here: [www.granica.gov.pl](http://www.granica.gov.pl).

- Relieves

The Polish Minister of Transport has introduced a temporary relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for drivers performing international road transport of passengers and goods. This exception applies from 18/03/2020 to 16/04/2020, included. The relaxation concerns only international transport and covers EU-registered hauliers only (not applicable to Contracting Parties of the AETR Agreement). Measures lifted are the following:

- Daily vehicle transport time cannot exceed 11 hours.
- The weekly transport time of the vehicle cannot exceed 60 hours.
- The total transport time of the vehicle over a consecutive two week period may not exceed 96 hours.
- After a five and a half hour period of driving, the driver shall be entitled to a continuous break of at least forty-five minutes.

Due to the extended transport time of the vehicle, from 9 to 11 hours, no derogations will be applied on daily and weekly rest periods.

Source: ZMPD

## **Portugal**

*Updated on 17/03/20*

The Council of Ministers approved on March 16<sup>th</sup> a set of measures to respond to the epidemiological situation of Coronavirus (COVID-19). As from March 16<sup>th</sup> 23:00 and until April 15<sup>th</sup> 12:00, Portugal is re-introducing border controls. The measure can be reassessed every 10 days.

Road traffic at internal land borders is stopped. International freight transport, cross-border commuters and emergency vehicles are exempted from this restriction. However, only major border crossings with Spain will remain open: Quintanilha, Tui, Vilar Formoso, Elvas, Castro Marim, Vila Verde de Raia (Chaves), Monfortinho (Castelo Branco), Marvão (Portalegre) and Vila Verde de Ficalho (Beja).

*Updated on 18/03/20*

The municipality of OVAR entered quarantine today (state of calamity). All commercial establishments and non-essential services are closed, and movement of people to and from the municipality of Ovar is limited. Road transport of goods is only allowed for the supply of supermarkets, pharmacies and gas stations.

Source: ANTRAM

## **Romania**

*Updated on 22/03/20*

- Restrictions

The President of Romania declared on Monday 16 March 2020, a 30-day state of emergency to limit the spread of COVID-19. Additional measures have also been taken on 22 March by the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs:

1. Retail activities, products and services are temporarily suspended in the shopping centers where several economic operators operate, except for the sale of food, veterinary or pharmaceutical products and cleaning services.

2. Recommendations entering in force on March 22, 2020, at 22.00 (local time) for the movement of people between 06.00 – 22.00:
  - a) the movement of persons outside the home/household should be carried out only for the following reasons:
    - travel in professional interest, including moving between home/household and the workplace, when the professional activity is essential and cannot be postponed or performed remotely;
    - travel for the provision of goods that cover the basic needs of the persons and their pets, as well as goods necessary for the professional activity;
    - travel for healthcare that cannot be postponed or performed remotely;
    - displacement for justified reasons, such as caring/accompanying the child, the assistance of elderly, sick or disabled persons or death of a family member;
    - short trips, near the home/household, related to the individual physical activity of the people and the needs of their pets.
3. Between 22.00 – 06.00 the movement of persons outside the home/household is allowed only by presenting, at the request of the competent authorities, a certificate issued by the employer or a declaration on their own responsibility. The declaration on its own responsibility must include name and surname, date of birth, address of place of residence/household/place of work and reason for travel. The measure shall be applied from March 23, 2020, at 22:00 (local time).
4. Foreign citizens cannot enter Romania's territory unless they transit Romania through designated corridors, whose list will be shared as soon as it is made available. The following categories are exempted from such provision:
  - family members of Romanian citizens;
  - family members of citizens of other EU Member States, of the European Economic Area, or of the Swiss Confederation, residing in Romania;
  - citizens who hold a long-stay visa, a residence permit or a document equivalent to the residence permit issued by the Romanian authorities, or an equivalent document issued by the authorities of other states, according to the law of the European Union;
  - people travelling in professional interest, evidenced by visa, residence permit, or other equivalent documents;
  - diplomatic staff or consular personnel, personnel of international organisations, military personnel or personnel who can provide humanitarian aid;
  - passengers in transit, including those repatriated as a result of granting consular protection;
  - passengers travelling on imperative grounds (medical or family);
  - persons who need international protection or for other humanitarian reasons.

Exceptions:

- National transport of goods and passengers,
- International road freight transport,
- Drivers of goods vehicles over 2.4t who arrive from or have passed through "red areas" or "yellow areas" are not subject to quarantine or isolation measures if at the border crossing point they do not show symptoms associated with coronavirus infection SARS-CoV-2. All persons entering Romania will have to fill in a form. Templates of these forms [are available in Romanian and English here](#).
- Drivers of goods vehicles over 2.4t are obligated, at border crossing points, to have on them and to wear personal means of protection such as disinfectant, gloves, face masks, and present documents attesting the route of travel to the destination.

The following border crossing points have been closed:

- Border crossing points with Hungary: Turnu, Săcuieni, Salonta and Valea lui Mihai.
- Border crossing point with Ukraine: Sighet.

- Border crossing points with Bulgaria: Negru Vodă, Lipnița, Dobromir, Zimnicea, Turnu Măgurele and Bechet.
- Border crossing points with Moldova: Rădăuți, Prut and Oancea.
- On Thursday 12 March 2020, the Serbian Authorities unilaterally closed the following border crossing points with Romania: Poștile de Fier 2, Moldova Nouă, Foeni, Lunga, Vâlcani, Drobeta Turnu Severin and Naidăș.

Due to the volume of traffic, the waiting times at borders will be significantly longer. The updated border waiting times [can be found here](#).

- Relieves

Romanian Authorities has introduced a temporary relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for drivers performing domestic/international road transport of goods. This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 561/2006](#). This exception applies from 18.03.2020 to 16.04.2020. Measures lifted are the following:

- Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours.
- Art. 7: replacement of the minimum daily breaks requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours driving.
- Art. 8(1): reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours.
- Art. 8(6): postponement of a weekly rest period beyond six-24 hour periods.

Source: UNTRR

## Russia

*Updated on 19/03/20*

- Restrictions

The Russian federation is temporarily restricting the entry of foreign citizens and stateless persons, from 18 March 00:00 to 1 May 00:00 ([Governmental Decree No. 635-p of 16 March 2020](#)).

The entry restrictions will not apply to the following:

- vehicle drivers on international roads;
- crew members of aircrafts, ships/boats and international railway trains;
- members of official delegations;
- persons with diplomatic, service or ordinary private visas that were issued in connection with the death of a close relative;
- persons either permanently living in the Russian Federation or travelling through air border crossing points.

The current decree establishes a unified approach towards the border crossing of Russia and substitutes other legal acts adopted earlier in this regard.

- Relieves

The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mikhail Mishustin, has announced that with effect from 20 March, 2020, all restrictions (including customs restrictions) on the supply of essential goods will be lifted for one month.

Mr Mishustin said, "We are introducing a "green corridor" for importers and large retail chains. A zero customs duty rate is set for the import of a number of goods, including medicines and medical devices".



Source: Russian Government (<http://government.ru/en/news/39172/> and <http://government.ru/news/39221/>)

## **Serbia**

*Updated on 14/03/20*

In order to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) into the territory of the Republic of Serbia, the Government has published a decree on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The decree temporarily bans the entry of people coming from areas with intensive transmission of the disease (epidemics hotbeds): Hubei Province in the People's Republic of China, the town Daegu and Province North Gyeongsang in the Republic of Korea, the Canton Ticino in the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of Italy and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This measure shall not apply for transport of goods and persons who been granted the approval to enter the Republic of Serbia by the Ministry of Health. In addition, this measure shall not apply to truck drivers operating international road freight transport. Transit operations through the country should not extend 12 hours from the moment the truck entered the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Please note that 44 borders are now temporarily closed (list [here](#)) and that international road freight operations should be redirected to the open borders.

Source: CCIS-AT

## **Slovenia**

*Updated on 15/03/20*

Slovenia is blocking foreign trucks over 3.5t that need to transit the country. The only trucks allowed to cross the border are those having to unload goods in Slovenia (final destination), or if trucks are loaded with postage, medicine equipment or pharmaceutical products and humanitarian help.

Slovenian-Italian borders are also closed for passenger transport by train, and international occasional and regular bus services.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, authorities of Slovenia and neighbouring countries agreed to create convoys of passengers and freight vehicles to solve the issue of long queue of vehicles being blocked at the borders. First convoys took place on Saturday and others are planned to take place to let buses with foreign nationals and trucks get back to their countries of origin. A political agreement have been found with the authorities of Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine (available information [here](#)).

Within the country, transport of goods is allowed for: mail service, medical supplies, and philanthropic assistance.

Sources: GIZ Intertransport and Government of Slovenia

## **Slovakia**

*Updated on 19/03/20*

- Restrictions

An emergency plan entered into force on 13 March at 07:00. This plan from the Ministry of Interior states that:

- International buses are prohibited from entering/exiting the country.
- Freight transport will be allowed on national and international routes. Drivers must be equipped with protective equipment and only those drivers with a temporary/permanent residence permit will be allowed to travel.
- Secondary border crossings will be closed.

According to the additional clarification received by IRU member in Slovakia, CESMAD-Slovakia, all international drivers involved in international road freight transport are allowed to carry out their operations.

Please find [here](#) the entire text of the decision, including details regarding drivers' protection equipment and protective measures.

- Relieves

Slovakia has agreed on a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for drivers involved in domestic and international delivery of goods. This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 561/2006](#). This temporary relaxation applies from 19 March 2020 and will run until 17 April 2020, included.

Slovakia has made it clear that driver and road safety must not be compromised. Drivers should not be expected to drive whilst tired - employers remain responsible for the health and safety of their employees and other road users.

For the above mentioned category of drivers, the following provisions will be temporarily relaxed as follows:

- Derogation to Article 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours.
- Derogation to Article 6(2): replacement of the maximum weekly driving limit of 56 hours with one of 60 hours.
- Derogation to Article 6(3): replacement of the maximum fortnightly driving limit of 90 hours with one of 96 hours.
- Derogation to Article 7: replacement of the minimum daily breaks requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours.
- Derogation to Article 8(1): Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours.

Source: CESMAD Slovakia

## Spain

*Updated on 22/03/20*

- Restrictions

The President of the Spanish Government announced on 22 March that he will ask Parliament to extend the state of emergency for 15 more days, until 11 April. The state of emergency means that all people will remain in their homes, leaving only for basic essentials.

The transport of goods continues to be exempt from such restrictions, currently permitted to transport any type of goods, by both domestic and international transport. However, the Royal decree 463/2020 published on 14/3 aims at banning traffic on some national routes. The following vehicles / services are exempted from the provision:

- Roadside assistance and road maintenance vehicles
- Vehicles distributing medical, food and fuel supplies
- Vehicles collecting solid waste
- Vehicles transporting live cattle and perishable goods (ATP)

Moreover, the 6-month period during which the holder of a foreign driving license (valid for driving in Spain) can drive in the national territory is suspended.

In addition to the above mentioned measures, the Spanish government announced that, as from March 17<sup>th</sup> 00:00, borders are closed for movement of persons. Are exempted Spanish citizens, Spanish residents, cross-border commuters and anyone justifying a case of Force majeure. As already stated, freight transport remain exempted to guarantee economic activity and supply chain.

- Relieves

Temporary tolerance concerning the enforcement of driving and rest times rules for drivers under the [EU Regulation 561/2006](#) have been granted for all the national territory of Spain on the March 17<sup>th</sup>. Measures lifted are the ones on art. 6.1 and 8.6 (daily driving times and weekly rest).

Driving restrictions have also been lifted by the competent authorities (Direction of Traffic for the Spanish territory except Catalonia and the Basque Country, Catalan Government and Basque Country Government). In all cases, the lifting does not apply to the mandatory itineraries for dangerous goods. The following restrictions are suspended for the entire duration of the state of emergency

- Week traffic bans for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes
- Weekend and festive bans for ADR vehicles
- Week, festive and weekend bans for abnormal transport
- All traffic bans for transport vehicles in Catalonia and in the Basque Country

The following derogations apply:

- Licenses, permits and any driving authorization expiring during the state of emergency is automatically extended until up to 70 days after its end
- The validity of temporary authorizations for circulation are extended up until 60 days after the end of the state of emergency

More detailed information for [Spain](#), [Catalonia](#), and the [Basque Country](#).

Sources: ASTIC and CETM

## Sweden

*Updated on 16/03/20*

- Restrictions

The Sweden government has taken measures introducing social distancing to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Freight transport activities within, to and from Sweden are not impacted by these measures.

- Relieves

As of March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Swedish Transport Agency is granting a temporary tolerance concerning the enforcement of driving and resting times rules for freight operations according to [EU Regulation No. 561/2006](#). Exemptions in Sweden apply to daily rest time (minimum 9 hours), weekly rest time (minimum 24 hours) and driving time as long as breaks are taken after a maximum of 4,5 hours driving time. Exemptions are valid for 30 days and are valid for all types of transports (i.e. goods, bus and coach), provided that road safety is not affected [be impaired] when transport companies make use of these exemptions. More detailed information [here](#).

Sources: SA and Stoneridge Electronics

## **Switzerland**

*Updated on 16/03/20*

At an extraordinary meeting today, 16 March 2020, the Federal Council took the decision to introduce more stringent measures to protect the public. It has declared that an 'extraordinary situation' now exists in Switzerland in terms of the Epidemics Act. All shops, restaurants, bars and entertainment and leisure facilities will remain closed until 19 April. Not affected by the new ruling are food stores and healthcare institutions. The Federal Council has also authorised the deployment of up to 8000 members of the armed forces to assist the cantons at hospitals and with logistics and security.

From March 17<sup>th</sup> 00:00, entry on the Swiss territory from Italy, France, Germany, and Austria is limited to Swiss citizens, Swiss residents and people entering for professional reasons. International freight transport and transit is still allowed.

Source: Swiss Federal Council

## **Tajikistan**

*Updated on 18/03/20*

Since January 2020, the border between Tajikistan and China – Kulma-Karasu, has been completely closed.

From 11 March 2020, Tajikistan began closing its borders with Afghanistan. The last checkpoint on the border with Afghanistan (Nizhny-Pyanj) was closed on 16 March 2020. The borders with Afghanistan is closed just for passengers transport, but not for freight shipments.

According to official data, the spread of Coronavirus has not been detected in Tajikistan, and in this regard the borders between Tajikistan-Uzbekistan and Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan are currently operating normally.

For more information please check the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan - <https://mfa.tj/>.

Source: ABBAT

## **Turkey**

*Updated on 23/03/20*

Turkish authorities have taken additional measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Please see the following amendments:

- With effect from 21 March, all flights to/from the listed countries have been prohibited. The entry of passengers from any of the mentioned countries has been stopped at all Turkish border gates (land, rail, air and sea);
- With effect from 19 March, the following borders have been closed to passengers for both entry and exit:

Border Gates between Turkey and Greece:

- Ipsala;
- Pazarkule;
- Uzunköprü (railway)

Border Gates between Turkey and Bulgaria:

- Kapıkule (land);
- Kapıkule (railway);
- Hamzabeyli;
- Dereköy.

Please note that there will be no restrictions for goods transportation.

Citizens of the listed countries will not be allowed to enter Turkey. Third country nationals who transport goods from or transit through the listed countries will not be allowed to enter Turkey for 14 days on the basis of the last country visited in the below list.

There is no restriction for citizens of the mentioned countries leaving Turkey.

*Country list (updated on 23/03 afternoon):*

Angola / Algeria / Austria / Belgium / Bangladesh / China / Canada / Czech Republic / Chad / Cameroon / Colombia / Denmark / Djibouti / Dominican Republic / Egypt / Ecuador / Equatorial Guinea / France / Finland / Germany / Guatemala / Hungary / Iran / Italy / Iraq / Ireland / India / Ivory Coast / Jordan / Kuwait / Kenya / Kosovo / Kazakhstan / Lebanon / Latvia / Montenegro / Morocco / Mongolia / Moldova / Mauritania / NCTR / Norway / Netherlands / Niger / Northern Macedonia / Nepal / Oman / Poland / Philippines / Portugal / Panama / Peru / South Korea / Spain / Sweden / Switzerland / Saudi Arabia / Slovenia / Sudan / Sri Lanka / UK / United Arab Emirates / Ukraine / Uzbekistan / Taiwan / Tunisia.

Source: UND

## **Turkmenistan**

*Updated on 17/03/20*

According to a new measure, as of March 17<sup>th</sup>, people entering Turkmenistan via Uzbekistan, must present a health report. Entry into the territory will not be allowed without this health report.

More information [here](#).

Source: Turkish Embassy – Ashgabat / Turkmenistan

## **Ukraine**

*Updated on 14/03/20*

The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, Oleksiy Danilov, announced on March 13<sup>th</sup> that the country will close its borders for foreigners (effective 15 March) for 14 days, with prolongation if necessary.

Border crossing points will remain open for freight transport (including transit). Temperature of drivers will be checked and they will be asked to wear masks, medical gloves, and have antiseptic gel for hands sanitation. The list of Ukrainian border crossing points closed or restricted for movements can be found on the annexes to the [governmental decree](#).

Source: ASMAP UA

## **United Kingdom**

*Updated on 22/03/20*

- Restrictions

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the government has taken new measures, which include advising British nationals against all non-essential international travel.

The advice against non-essential travel is not intended to apply to international and domestic freight transport. Thus, haulage continues under no extra restrictions in the UK officially.

A [guidance note](#) on Coronavirus (Covid-19) and freight transport has been published by the UK Department for Transport

- Relieves

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has issued notification of a relaxation in the drivers' hours rules for Northern Ireland. This temporary relaxation applies from 00:01 on Wednesday 18 March 2020 and will run until 23:59 on Thursday 16 April 2020. Initially, this will apply for the drivers of vehicles involved in the delivery of food, non-food (personal care and household paper and cleaning) and over the counter pharmaceuticals when undertaking the following journeys:

- Distribution centre to stores (or fulfilment centre).
- From manufacturer or supplier to distribution centre (including backhaul collections).
- From manufacturer or supplier to store (or fulfilment centre).
- Between distribution centres and transport hub trunking.
- Transport hub deliveries to stores.

This exemption does not apply to drivers undertaking deliveries directly to consumers.

Operators are reminded that this relaxation does not excuse them from their duty of care to drivers and that drivers should not be allowed or required to drive whilst tired. Operators seeking to use the exemption should read the DfI notice in detail; this can be found [here](#).

On 22 March, the Department for Transport (DfT) has also introduced a temporary and limited urgent [relaxation](#) of the enforcement of EU drivers' hours rules in England, Scotland and Wales.

This applies to those undertaking carriage of goods by road in all sectors, between 00.01 on Monday 23 March and 23.59 on Tuesday 21 April (continuation of the relaxation past 5 April is subject to review).

The EU drivers' hours rules can be temporarily relaxed as follows:

- a) Replacement of the EU daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours.
- b) Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours.
- c) Lifting the weekly (56 hours) and fortnightly driving limits (90 hours) to 60 and 96 hours respectively.
- d) Postponement of the requirement to start a weekly rest period after six-24 hours periods, for after seven 24 hours period; although two regular weekly rest periods or a regular and a reduced weekly rest period will still be required within a fortnight.
- e) The requirements for daily breaks of 45 minutes after 4.5 hours driving replaced with replaced with a break of 45 minutes after 5.5 hours of driving.

Drivers must not use relaxation 'a' and 'd' at the same time. This is to ensure drivers are able to get adequate rest. DfT guidance can be found [here](#).

In addition to these measures, from Monday 23 March, all road user charging schemes in the capital will be temporarily suspended until further notice. This includes the Congestion Charge, the central London ULEZ and the London-wide LEZ.

Sources: RHA and FTA

## **USA**

*Updated on 23/03/20*

### **Updated situation on Cross-Border Operations in North America (Canada, Mexico and USA)**

IRU's US freight member, ATA, has reported the following:

With effect from midnight, Friday 20 March, the US-Canada and US-Mexico border ports of entry have implemented a partial travel ban. This ban does not apply to trade or truck freight of any kind, nor to truck drivers from these three countries (providing the driver is in good health). Please see the highlights below, as well as the attached Federal Register notices.

#### **[US-Canada Joint Initiative COVID-19 Statement](#)**

#### **[US-Mexico Joint Initiative COVID-19 Statement](#)**

There have been reports of some Customs and Border Protection officers on the northern border informing drivers that, with effect from 23 March, their loads will not be considered "essential". There are also reports that some loads have already been turned away for the same reason. ATA has been informed that ALL truck freight is essential, and if drivers are told otherwise then he or she must request the assistance of a supervisor. Furthermore, drivers commuting to work across the border, or persons crossing the border on foot to collect a load, are also permitted to cross.

If you receive reports from your drivers of any issues, please inform ATA immediately to inform the CBP. Field officers should be fully aware that all freight and all truck drivers are considered essential at this point.

### **Updated situation on Domestic Freight Operations in the United States of America**

On 18 March, the FMCSA released an updated Emergency Declaration for commercial motor vehicle operations providing direct assistance to COVID-19 relief efforts. The declaration can be located on the FMCSA's website [here](#).

In the update, the FMCSA provided new guidance on which operations are covered by the declaration, clarifying that fuel haulers are in fact included. The updated declaration also provides new guidance on "mixed load" operations.

"We thank Administrator Mullen and the Trump Administration for continued support to our industry as we deliver food, water, medicine, medical supplies, fuel and other essentials throughout this public health crisis," said Dan Horvath, Vice President of Safety Policy at the American Trucking Associations. "The men and women of the trucking industry are heroes who remain on the front lines in this national effort."

ATA encourages individuals to review the official declaration to determine whether their operations are included

Source: ATA

## **Uzbekistan**

*Updated on 16/03/20*

Starting from March 16th, Uzbekistan is suspending all air and road connections with third countries. Railway connections will be closed in 3 days.

According to the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan, restrictions shall not apply to persons and vehicles engaged in goods transport by road, rail, sea, river, and air. However, and according to information collected on the field, delays at Kazakh-Uzbek borders are reported following the restrictive measures taken by the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Sources: [State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan](#)  
<https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/03/15/measures>