Restrictions

As of 16 June, temporary border controls, introduced in March 2020 at the German borders with Austria, France, Switzerland and Denmark, for reasons of pandemic control, have been abandoned again. Entry into Germany of travellers from EU member states and EU associated states, is no longer subject to show proof and justification of the urgent need to travel. Restrictions may still be reintroduced again subject to the pandemic’s further development.

As of 16 June, the federal and state governments have agreed that only persons entering Germany from third countries (countries outside EU) are required to self-quarantine for two weeks. Persons travelling from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom are exempt from this requirement, as are persons travelling from EU countries. Please note that persons travelling from these countries could be instructed to quarantine if, over the last seven days, the number of new infections in the respective country has amounted to more than 50 per 100,000 inhabitants (detailed numbers can be found on the Robert-Koch-Institut website).

The quarantine requirement does not apply to persons entering Germany from a third country with an infection rate already determined as low. A list of these countries will be published on the RobertKoch-Institut website.

Please consult the website of the specific German federal state to which you are travelling, either in which you have your residence or in which you intend to stay, for more details as rules may vary from state to state. More information here.

Bus companies and tour operators doing cross-border transport to Germany must comply, within the framework of their operational and technical capabilities, with the following provisions:
• Provide travellers with a barrier-free version of the information on the risks posed by COVID19 infection and the possibilities for preventing and combating it.

• Keep the data available for up to 30 days after arrival in Germany. This applies in particular to electronically stored data which enable passengers to be identified and located, as well as to passenger lists and seating plans.

There are no restrictions on the cross-border movement of goods, regardless of the nationality of the drivers.

Measures applying to drivers: health equipment

All German Federal States have introduced legislation making the use of facial masks mandatory in order to prevent further spreading of the COVID-19 virus. However, due to the federal structure of Germany, there is no unique nationwide provision defining the exact circumstances in which a mask must be worn. Therefore, to ensure that legal requirements are definitively fulfilled, BGL recommends that drivers wear a facial mask whenever leaving the vehicle’s cabin.

Relieves

German control authority BAG is publishing a list of German COVID-19 derogations concerning road transport under BAG link. On this page, please click the link called “Straßengüterverkehrsrechtliche Ausnahmen aufgrund Covid-19” in order to open the PDF list’s most up-to-date version. Most relevant content:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, German regions (Bundesländer) have been granting exemptions from the general week-end and holiday driving bans. Several Bundesländer have now stopped prolonging the exemptions and are returning to “business as usual” while others still are maintaining the exemptions. As for the additional German summer driving restrictions (Saturdays between 1 July and 31 August, 07:00 to 20:00 on special sections of motorways), the Federal Ministry of Transport asked the Bundesländer to suspend this restriction in 2020. Implementation of this suspension by the Bundesländer is presently under way. Up-to-date information on the situation concerning both restrictions is being published under the BAG link – see pages 6 and 7 of the “Übersicht...” document. The overview on these pages has:
- a column headed “Ausnahme SoFV” which is indicating the date of expiry for exemptions from the week-end and holiday driving bans, and
- another column called “Ausnahme FerReiseV” which is indicating the date of expiry of exemptions from the additional German summer driving restrictions (if any).

All dates of expiry mentioned in this document should be read as “until and including” (“bis einschließlich”), that’s to say the date indicate is the last date when operators can take advantage of the relevant exemption/suspension.

On 28 May, the German government informed that, in the absence of compelling reasons that justify further prorogations, relaxations of driving and rest time rules will not be renewed after 31 May. Therefore, Regulation (EC) 561/2006 will fully apply from 00:00 on 1 June.

On 3 June, the German Federal Foreign Minister announced the lifting of the global travel warning from 15 June, which will be replaced by country-specific travel information. The lifting applies to EU Member States (except Spain, whose warning will be lifted at a later stage), Great Britain, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein; Norway’s travel warning will be also lifted at a later stage. Travel warning will be reinstated in case infections rise over 50 per 100,000 inhabitants.

For what concerns domestic passenger transport in Germany, BDO has provided an overview table and map (in German) on the current state of bus travel bans as well as preventive measures to be applied on board.

**SOURCE:** BGL, DSLV, BDO