COUNTRY: United Kingdom
LAST UPDATE: 06/07/2020

Restrictions

On March 17th, 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.

The UK has introduced new border measures that will be implemented from 8 June. These introduce new measures at the UK border to guard against a second wave of coronavirus (Covid-19) infections and include 14 days self-isolation for anyone entering the UK, bar a short list of exemptions:

- Drivers of goods vehicles and bus/coach drivers will be exempt from the new 14-day quarantine requirement that will apply to most arrivals in the UK. Drivers will have to demonstrate that their travel into the UK is part of their job. They can do this in a number of ways, for example a letter from their employer, a consignment note or the operator licence would be acceptable. UK authorities provided an indicative template for a letter from the employer; using this template is not mandatory.

- Even though they are exempt from quarantine, drivers will have to fill in an online locator form with their contact details and details of their journey. Officials confirmed the “address” field will be optional. Drivers can complete the form no more than 48 hours in advance and will have to show either the digital version or the printed version of the form upon arrival at the UK border.

Official guidance is available here.

UK authorities have provided guidance in several languages about the contact locator form that individuals need to fill in upon entry into the UK territory.
Members are reminded that these documents have been drafted to cover all passengers, not only freight drivers. Whilst freight drivers are exempt from the 14-day self-isolation requirement, referred to in the document, they do have to fill in the form.

The following languages are available:

- Italian: guidance and instructions
- French: guidance and instructions
- German: guidance and instructions
- Romanian: guidance and instructions
- Czech: guidance and instructions
- Dutch: guidance and instructions
- Lithuanian: guidance and instructions
- Polish: guidance and instructions
- Portuguese: guidance and instructions
- Russian: guidance and instructions
- Slovak: guidance and instructions
- Spanish: guidance and instructions
- Turkish: guidance and instructions
- Bulgarian: guidance and instructions
- Hungarian: guidance and instructions

Members are reminded that the locator form can only be filled out online.

In cases of non-resident drivers becoming unwell with the coronavirus (Covid-19) symptoms while in the UK, the national authorities recommend the following:

- If emergency/clinical care is needed, an ambulance should be called;
The official guidelines must be followed, ie. immediate self-isolation; it is the responsibility of the freight company to safeguard employee well-being and therefore place them in suitable individual accommodation;

Foreign nationals can also approach their embassy for assistance;

In exceptional circumstances, depending on capacity, it may be possible to arrange accommodation at the London Isolation Centre.

Following the enter into force of measures set out by the UK government earlier this week, members and drivers are reminded of the following:

Drivers need to prove that the travel is part of their job. This can be done by, for example, a letter from their employer, the EC International Workers Declaration, a consignment note or the operator’s licence

In addition, the UK locator form must be completed by anyone arriving in the UK, including all professional drivers and freight workers. Other documents that drivers must have are the consignment note and the True Certified Copy of the Community Licence

On 17 June, the Home Office advised that an update had been made to the contact locator page in relation to people including drivers who may be making multiple trips to the UK in a 48 hour period.

Added option to the ‘are you transiting or staying in the UK’ page now includes the option for people to say that they are doing more than one trip in 48 hours.

The locator form declaration cannot be submitted more than 48 hours before the arrival in UK.

The UK Home Office/DfT have confirmed that drivers returning from annual leave or EU nationals returning to the UK to work as drivers MUST comply with the 14 day isolation requirements. They are not exempt until isolation has taken place.

Relieves

Relaxations of EU and NI driving and rest times rules currently in place have not been extended further. Therefore, as from 00:00 on 1 June, Regulation (EC)
561/2006 fully applies for goods vehicles doing any work in the UK, domestic (including cabotage) or international. Domestic working hours rules only apply to vehicles below 3.5 tonnes, other than a few exempted categories.

On 14 June relaxation of GB drivers’ hours rules have ceased to apply; full compliance should now be followed.

The temporary suspension (started on 23 March) of the London Congestion Charge and central London ULEZ and the London-wide LEZ finished on 18 May. Vehicles going into these areas need to comply with the registration schemes and payment requirements. Remember you need to register separately for each scheme.

Additionally the Congestion Charge will be temporarily increased to £15 per day from 22 June.

On 28 June, the Government announced that the HGV Road User Levy, which is applied to HGVs of 12 tonnes or more, will be suspended for a year. The suspension runs from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021.

A Levy rate of zero will automatically apply at a vehicle’s normal VED/Levy renewal date from August onwards.

The suspension is applied to UK and overseas-registered HGVs using the UK’s roads.

Foreign operators who have already paid the levy as an annual payment will be able to claim a refund for the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021, through their user account. Foreign operators who would normally ‘pay as they go’ will not be charged for use of the UK network between 1 August 2020 and 31 July 2021.

More information can be found here.

On 6 July, the UK Home Office published the list of travel corridors from which people arriving into the UK will not have to isolate for 14 days upon arrival, unless they have visited or stopped in any other country or territory in the preceding 14 days. Those arriving in the UK whose journey started from a country that is not on the list will still have to follow the isolation requirements. It is expected that the list will grow as time goes on. Rules on travel corridors will apply from 10 July onwards.

Members are reminded that anyone entering the UK (drivers included) is still required to fill the passenger locator form. In case of multiple entries in the UK
within 48 hours, multiple journey can be included in the form. Drivers are still exempt from the isolation requirements.

**SOURCE:** RHA and FTA