



Department for Transport

ECMT Road Transport Delegates of EU States

FREIGHT OPERATOR LICENSING AND
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Notification of changes of access to the UK for EU Road Transport Operators

This open letter is to make you aware of planned changes to access rights into and out of the UK for goods vehicle operators established in the EU. These changes are being made as the Trade and Co-operation Agreement (“the Agreement”) between the UK and the EU did not include provisions for the international haulage of goods between the UK and non-EU States for EU operators.

The agreement also does not provide for international haulage of goods between the EU and third countries for UK goods vehicle operators, and the UK Department for Transport already advises UK operators to use ECMT permits for such operations.

The UK will be discontinuing the access rights of EU operators into and out of the UK (other than via the ECMT system) for goods transports between the UK and non-EU States, through regulations implementing the Agreement. The changes are still dependent on UK parliamentary procedures, but it is the Department’s intention that the changes will be effective across Great Britain at 1st January 2022. From this date, EU operators will require an ECMT permit for such transports, which they were previously able to be made with a Community Licence alone. The UK is allowing these transports to continue using a Community Licence for the rest of 2021.

In respect of cabotage rights, the UK has already reduced the number of transports permitted by EU operators within the UK within 7 days of a laden entry from 3 to 2. This is further to the Agreement and this requirement is being enforced. The same further regulations planned to be in force in Great Britain at 1st January 2022 will also terminate the allowances of one cabotage transport within 3 days of an unladen entry and access rights for journey legs within the UK related to combined transport. The UK is allowing these transports to continue using a Community Licence for the rest of 2021.

This letter is to formally notify you of this anticipated change in the arrangements for your road transport operators. The UK continues to be committed to good international road transport access to facilitate trade. It regrets this necessary consequence of the “Agreement” or other mechanisms outside ECMT not providing with certainty for these transports. This is an open letter and can be shared, for example with representatives of your road transport operators.

A similar letter is being sent to the delegates of non-EU States on the ECMT road transport group, copied to the International Road Transport Union and the European Commission.

If you need more information, please contact Morag Rethans. Morag.Rethans@dft.gov.uk

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