

Drivers' Hours Law 561/2006

Digital Tachograph

What are the rules about?

The rules came into effect on 11 April 2007 and they cover drivers' hours, breaks and rest periods.

Who do they apply to?

- 🗣️ Goods-carrying vehicles where the permissible mass of the vehicle including any trailer or semi-trailer, is greater than 3.5 tones.
- 🗣️ Passenger-carrying vehicles that are built or adapted to carry more than nine people, including the driver.

The rules apply whether or not the vehicles are laden (loaded).

Where do they apply to?

- 🗣️ To all the Journeys within the European Union and Member States and Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.
- 🗣️ Drivers on journeys between signatories to the AETR agreement (about the work of crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport) will continue to follow the rules in that agreement.
- 🗣️ Journeys to or through the AETR countries are subject to the AETR rules.

UE, AETR e EEA Countries

EU Countries	AETR Countries	EEA Countries
Austria	Albania	All the EU Countries plus
Belgium	Andorra	Iceland
Bulgaria	Armenia	Liechtenstein
Cyprus	Azerbaijan	Norway
Czech Republic	Belarus	
Denmark	Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Estonia	Croatia	
Finland	Kazakhstan	
France	Liechtenstein	
Germany	Macedonia	
Greece	Moldova	
Hungary	Russia	
Ireland	Serbia and Montenegro	
Italy	Turkey	
Latvia	Turkmenistan	
Lithuania	Ukraine	
Luxembourg	Uzbekistan	
Malta		
Netherlands		
Poland		
Portugal		
Romania		
Slovakia		
Slovenia		
Spain		
Sweden		
UK		

Driver Breaks

Daily Breaks

A driver is allowed to drive 4.5 hours without any break.

The break should be 45 minutes, but it can be taken in two ways:

- 🕒 As an uninterrupted period of 45 minutes.
- 🕒 Or a split break where a 15 minutes break period is followed by a 30 minutes break all within the 4.5 hours driving limit.

During the break time the driver must not drive or do any other work. The time needs to be fully used for resting.

Example 1

Driving 4.5 hours	Break 45 minutes (minimum)	Driving 4.5 hours
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Example 2

Driving 1 hours	Break 45 minutes	Driving 4.5 hours	Break 45 minutes	Driving 3.5 hours
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Daily Driving Limit

The maximum driving time per day is 9 hours. You can drive for 10 hours but not more than 2 times per week. Driving time includes any off-road parts of the journey where the rest of the journey is made on a public road. Journeys taking place entirely off-road would be considered “other work”.

10 Hours Driving time (Maximum of 2 times a week)

Example 1

Driving	Break	Driving	Break	Driving
4.5 hours	45 minutes	4.5 hours	45 minutes	1 hours

Example 2

Driving	Break	Driving	Break	Driving
2 hours	45 minutes	4.5 hours	45 minutes	3.5 hours

Weekly driving times

The maximum time you can drive each week is 56 hours.

Sunday	Weekly rest period
Monday	10 hours driving
Tuesday	9 hours driving
Wednesday	10 hours driving
Thursday	9 hours driving
Friday	9 hours driving
Saturday	9 hours driving
Sunday	Weekly rest period
Total Driving	56 hours

You can't drive more than 90 hours in any two consecutive weeks. In the previous example the driver will be required not to drive more than 34 hours in the previous week and in the following after taking the weekly regular period of rest.

Rest times

Daily Rest Time



In the First 24 hours after the end of your weekly or daily rest period you must take a daily rest period of 11 hours as:

- 🕒 Uninterrupted period of 11 hours.
- 🕒 Divided in 2 periods – the first of 3 uninterrupted hours and the second one of at least 9 uninterrupted hours. In this case the total will be 12 hours.



You can take also a reduced daily rest period of at least 9 hours but less than 11. You can take a maximum of three reduced daily rest periods between any two weekly rest periods.

Weekly Rest Times



It can be:

-  A regular weekly rest period of at least 45 hours.
-  A reduced weekly rest period between 24 and 45 hours.

In any two consecutive weeks you must take either :

-  Two regular weekly rest periods.
-  One regular rest period and a reduced weekly rest period.

If you take a reduced weekly rest period then you will need to compensate it :

-  With a compensation period taken before the end of the third week after the week you took the reduced rest period.
-  With a compensation period attached to another rest period of at least nine hours. This means that you can add the compensation rest to either a weekly or a daily rest period.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
35 hours weekly rest (reduced weekly rest period)	45 hours (regular rest period)	45 hours	45 hours + compensation of 10 hours from week 1




Remember that your weekly rest period starts no later than six days after your previous weekly rest period.

Example : If your weekly rest period ends at 8:00 on Monday, the next one will start at 8:00 the following Sunday.

The weekly regular rest period cannot be taken in the vehicle . You can take the daily rest period and the reduced weekly rest periods in the vehicle if you are away from base. However the vehicle must be stationary during the rest periods and must be fitted with sleeping facilities for you and any other driver.

In case of journey involving vehicle transport by ferry or train :



The daily rest requirements may be interrupted no more than twice to allow you to drive the vehicle on and off the ferry or train but u need to respect some rules:

-  The total interruption can't be longer than 1 hour.
-  You need to have access to resting facilities during the rest period.
-  The total rest period is anyway of 11 hours.

This interruption can be applied just in case of regular resting period. The reduced resting period can't be interrupted. You may treat time spent accompanying a vehicle on a ferry or train as a break period if the time is not daily rest.

In case of more than one driver

Each driver need to respect the previous rules. In case of multiple drivers there are some exceptions :

-  Each driver must take a daily rest of at least nine hours within 30 hours of the end of their previous daily or weekly rest period.
-  There must be two drivers in the vehicle (this rule does not apply to the first hour of multi-manning).

Driver 1	Time	Driver 2
Daily rest	30 hour period	Daily rest
Other work 1 hour	08:00 - 09:00	Daily rest (not on vehicle) 1 hour
Driving 4.5 hours	09:00 - 13:30	Availability 4.5 hours
Break + availability 4.5 hours	13:30 - 18:00	Driving 4.5 hours
Driving 4.5 hours	18:00 - 22:30	Break + availability 4.5 hours
4.5 hours Break + availability	22:30 - 03:00	Driving 4.5 hours
Driving 1 hour	03:00 - 04:00	Break 1 hour
Break 1 hour	04:00 - 05:00	Driving 1 hour
Daily rest (9 hours)	05:00 - 14:00	Daily rest (9 hours)
10 hours	Total Driving	10 hours

What data must be tachograph contain?

Analogue charts must contain :

- 🗨 Name and surname;
- 🗨 Date and place where the use of the sheet begins and ends;
- 🗨 Registration number of each vehicle to which you are assigned at the start of the first journey and, if you change vehicle, during use of the sheet;
- 🗨 The time of any change of vehicle.

The odometer reading (odometer readings for each vehicle must be recorded if the driver changed vehicles during the working day):

- 🗨 At the start of the first journey.
- 🗨 At the end of the last journey.

What tachograph records must be available?

In case of an analogue tachograph:

- 🗨 Charts of the last 28 days.
- 🗨 Any manual record or printout of the last 28 days.
- 🗨 The digital tachograph card (if you have one).

In case of a digital Tachograph:

- 🗨 Digital card.
- 🗨 Any manual record or printout of the last 28 days.
- 🗨 Charts of the analogue vehicle you drove in the previous 28 days.