

Hungary (March 21, 2020)

- *Restrictive measures* (both as imposed by official rules and “lived” in practice):

Passenger transport:

Hungary has closed its internal and external borders from passenger transport with effect from 00:00 17th of March. Hungarian citizens and close relatives travelling with them (including those not resident in Hungary) will still be allowed to enter the country. Occasionally the border will be opened for citizens of Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia to transit through the country and get home safely, but only subject to prior consultation with the countries concerned, and only for the necessary and sufficient time.

Freight transport:

The **practice** at Hungarian BCPs now seemingly follow the rules laid down in gov. decrees and procedures published by the Operational Group (dedicated government COVID-19 body).

Freight transport in transit

Professional drivers Hungarian citizens can use any route available for freight transport. Professional drivers **non-Hungarian citizens** in transit are allowed to cross the state border and continue the journey without restrictions, **but only through the designated border points and transit routes marked with a blue line.**

A map operated by the police is available, but unfortunately sometimes the information is outdated, however it can be used to demonstrate the blue transit routes – designated for international freight traffic:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1TTwJysYGATqZNRi3NuP6B6_tYmxVF1JO&ll=47.08797470006914%2C19.375606900877187&z=7

Stops are permitted **only at designated rest areas/fuel stations. Only the driver is permitted in the cabin; no passengers (no double crew in the cabin).** Drivers should cross the territory as quickly and efficiently as possible, without the violation of any traffic rules. Police procedures are in place at the points of exit. Transport operators must have the yellow police stamp, given by the police at the border crossing points (see the picture on the right).



Freight transports arriving and departing from Hungarian destinations:

Professional drivers Hungarian citizens can use any route available for freight transport.

Hungarian citizens arriving from the territory of Italy, according to the government decree can enter, but they are obliged to spend 14 days in official home quarantine. The driver during the 14 days of official home quarantine can undertake another commission, if:

- it is in a condition suitable for driving,

- does not presents symptoms of infection,
- and its employer/site manager considers it suitable.

Provided that the above mentioned conditions are fulfilled the driver can ONLY leave the quarantine if the **competent epidemiological authority is informed (district office who issued the decision to spend time in quarantine)**, and the place of loading will be accessed through the blue corridor, with stops only at the designated rest areas/fuel stations.

Professional drivers non-Hungarian citizens with loading and unloading destination in Hungary are allowed to cross the state border and continue the journey, **but only through the designated border points and transit routes marked with blue on the map:**

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1TTwJysYGATqZNRi3NuP6B6_tYmxVF1JO&ll=47.08797470006914%2C19.375606900877187&z=7

Professional drivers non-Hungarian citizens arriving from the territory of **Italy** and travelling to a destination in Hungary, **according to the government decree** will only be able to access the loading/unloading site and leave the country via one of the designated blue corridors. The vehicle must be equipped with sufficient protective equipment (gloves and masks) and disinfectant. Personal contact with the driver is only permitted with the appropriate protective equipment. **Disposable gloves** should be changed after each use. Upon delivery of the transport documents **there should be no contact between the driver and the recipient.** The driver should not participate in the loading; it is recommended that he remains in the cabin. After loading, the driver must ensure the cargo is securely placed. Agents must deal with one vehicle at a time and the driver must regularly disinfect the dashboard and any equipment that has been touched.

In reality vehicles with foreign drivers arriving from the territories of Italy (even if only transited through Italy), China, South Korea, Iran and Israel will be permitted to enter (according to the actual practice!) but at some border crossing points they will get a decision to spend 14 days of quarantine at the site of loading/unloading. In this case the driver will be able to leave the designated quarantine area if:

- it is in a condition suitable for driving,
- does not presents symptoms of infection,
- and its employer/site manager considers it suitable.

Provided that the above mentioned conditions are fulfilled the driver can ONLY leave the quarantine if the **competent epidemiological authority is informed (district office who issued the decision to spend time in quarantine)**, and the place of loading will be accessed through the blue corridor, with stops only at the designated rest areas/fuel stations.

If the driver is not given a paper at the border with the decision to spend 14 days in quarantine it means that he is not obliged to spend time in quarantine on the territory of Hungary. The latest developments show, that some drivers who get a decision on the border are ignoring the decision and are able to leave Hungary without prior notification for the competent epidemiological authority.

- *Names of open border crossing points and closed border crossing points:*

This is a map operated by the police and it can be used to demonstrate the blue transit routes – designated for international freight traffic:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1TTwJysYGATqZNRi3NuP6B6_tYmxVF1JO&ll=47.08797470006914%2C19.375606900877187&z=7

Slovenia has no operational border crossing point with Hungary for international freight traffic in transit through Slovenia. Destination traffic is allowed at Tornyiszentmiklós - Pince (M70) for Hungarian nationals, there is no information on foreign nationals.

- *Relaxation measures:*

Exemption from driving restriction in Hungary (weekend and holiday traffic ban) General exemption was granted from the driving restrictions in Hungary for trucks and combination vehicles with a MPW of over 7.5 t. The exemption is valid until revoked.

The Ministry for Innovation 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 21/03/2020 -19/04/2020. Measures lifted are the following:

- Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;
- Art. 6(2): replacement of the maximum weekly driving limit of 56 hours with one of 65 hours;
- Art. 6(3): replacement of the maximum fortnightly driving limit of 90 hours with one of 105 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(1): Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours;
- Art. 8(6): reduction of the regular weekly rest period from 45 hours to 4 hours without any compensation.
- Art. 8(6): postponement of a weekly rest period from six to seven 24-hour period.

- *Official information*

Webpage of the Government: <http://abouthungary.hu/news-in-brief/coronavirus-heres-the-latest/>

Hungary doing everything possible to ensure continuous and unhindered freight transport “We are continuing to do everything possible to ensure continuous and unhindered freight transport, because this is necessary for the security of people’s supply, and for the functioning of countries’ economies,” the foreign minister said.

- *Useful materials*

In order to avoid confusion the Operational Group (dedicated government COVID-19 body) issued a detailed flowchart to create a uniform practice at all designated border crossing points (See the translated version of the flowchart below).

Source: MKFE

Goods transport flowchart – Hungarian border crossing points

Coming from a country listed in art 3 (1) of gov. decree nr. 41/2020? (Italy – even if only transited through Italy – China, South Korea, Iran and Israel)

NO

Can enter, if it is in a condition suitable for driving

YES

Hungarian location (business location) is your destination?

NO

Can enter (in transit), if it is in a condition suitable for driving*

YES

Can enter if it is in a condition suitable for driving, provided that:

- Hungarian citizens can enter, but they are obliged to spend 14 days in official home quarantine
- foreign citizens have to spend 14 days in official quarantine at the location of the Hungarian business**

If the Hungarian citizen presents symptoms of infection the National Ambulance Service will transport that person to an official quarantine

If the foreign citizen presents symptoms of infection cannot enter to Hungary

*the vehicle can only use the designated humanitarian corridor, stops are permitted only at designated rest areas/fuel stations. At the point of entry the driver will be informed about the shortest route to reach the destination. Only the driver is permitted in the cabin; no passengers.

** the driver during the 14 days of official home quarantine can undertake another commission, if it is in a condition suitable for driving, does not presents **symptoms of infection**, and its **employer/site manager considers it suitable**. Provided that the above mentioned conditions are fulfilled the driver can **ONLY** leave the quarantine if the competent epidemiological authority is informed (district office who issued the decision), and the place of loading is accessed through the humanitarian corridor, with stops only at the designated rest areas/fuel stations

As a general rule the transportation of goods has to be assured!