



# Department for Transport

ECMT Road Transport Group Delegates

ROAD FREIGHT REGULATION,  
MOTORING AND FREIGHT  
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT  
GREAT MINSTER HOUSE  
33 HORSEFERRY ROAD  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DR

Web Site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

28 October 2021

## Temporary Extension to Cabotage in Great Britain

This open letter is to notify you that the UK has introduced a temporary extension to cabotage rules, which, following legislative changes comes into effect from today, 28 October 2021.

The temporary additional cabotage rights being permitted will run for six months to 30 April 2022, and allow cabotage:

- within Great Britain<sup>1</sup>;
- for a period of 14 days, with the first day being when a laden entry into the United Kingdom was made, with no limitation during that period on the number of cabotage journeys permitted.
- to be undertaken by operators from any country, irrespective of whether they are in the EU, or covered by an ECMT or bilateral permit arrangement.

More information can be found in this policy paper published on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-extension-to-road-haulage-cabotage/temporary-extension-to-road-haulage-cabotage>

The original consultation, and government response can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/temporary-extension-to-road-haulage-cabotage>

The extension to cabotage rights is not limited to any specific types of transport and although the extension is for a period of six months, we retain the ability to revoke it should the measure no longer prove effective. Should the measure be withdrawn prior to 30 April 2022 we will notify Road Transport Group Delegates as soon as possible.

The changes in access to the UK notified to both EU<sup>2</sup> and non-EU<sup>3</sup> State Road Transport Group delegates as set out in letters dated 24 September 2021, are being paused whilst this measure is in place, but will come into force once the extension period expires.

---

<sup>1</sup> The exemption set out in this letter does not apply in Northern Ireland.

<sup>2</sup> Letter to EU States: [https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/uk\\_27\\_september\\_2021\\_1.pdf](https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/uk_27_september_2021_1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Letter to Non-EU States: [https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/uk\\_27\\_september\\_2021.pdf](https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/uk_27_september_2021.pdf)

The UK is making this change on a unilateral basis to improve the flow of goods and the wider resilience in supply chains within the UK.

This open letter can be shared with representatives of your road transport operators.

Should you have any queries, or require further information, please contact Morag Rethans. [morag.rethans@dft.gov.uk](mailto:morag.rethans@dft.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Road Freight Regulation Division  
Department for Transport**