

UPDATE

EU Regulation



Key Information: Tachograph Requirement as of July 2026

Dear Business Partner,

As of July 1, 2026, a new legal regulation will come into effect affecting many commercial vehicles. In accordance with EU Regulation (EC) No 561/2006, all vehicles with a maximum permissible gross weight of more than 2.5 tonnes (including trailers) used in cross-border freight transport or cabotage operations must be equipped with a second-generation smart tachograph (Smart Tacho 2). Consequently, these vehicles will be fully subject to statutory driving and rest time regulations as well as corresponding checks. Especially in international and time-critical transport, this regulation represents a significant change to previous operational workflows.

Overview: https://www.ela.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-08/Driving_and_Resting_Times_English.pdf

Impact on the Transport Market

Due to the new regulation, the framework conditions in the transport market are expected to shift noticeably:

- Reduced vehicle availability due to stricter legal requirements
- Limited operational flexibility in the 3.5t segment
- Extended transit times due to strict compliance with driving and rest times
- Increased planning and scheduling efforts
- Potential shifting of transport volumes to other vehicle classes

Particularly in long-haul transport, this may alter transport processes that could previously be realized at short notice and with high flexibility.

Pricing and Planning Situation

At this point, it is not yet fully foreseeable how these changes will specifically impact capacities and pricing. However, it is expected that the market may face a noticeable shortage of cargo space as well as altered pricing structures. As a result, adjustments to transport terms and conditions may become necessary in individual cases. We therefore recommend planning future transport orders with sufficient lead time to ensure stable and reliable processing.

Outlook

The first few weeks after the new regulation comes into effect will likely be characterized by a certain market dynamic, during which capacities, processes, and price structures will need to realign. Short-term fluctuations may occur during this phase.

Following a certain transition period, we expect processes to stabilize and reliable price structures to return. We will continuously adjust our calculations accordingly to offer you transparent pricing moving forward.

Best regards,
Your HTL Team