



DRIVERS' HOURS

Did you know?

- Up to 1 in 5 collisions are caused by tiredness
- There are laws limiting the amount of driving a van driver can do each day. These laws also require minimum rest periods.
- Drivers breaking these rules can receive large fines and even custodial sentences.
- There are two different sets of rules that can apply. It is important you know which you need to follow.

You'll probably be driving under GB Domestic Rules but you will need to check.



EU rules

EU rules apply if the maximum weight of your vehicle or vehicle combination is more than 3.5 tonnes and remain valid in the UK despite Brexit.

If these rules apply, you will need a tachograph too.

GB domestic rules

GB domestic rules apply in England, Wales and Scotland if any of the following are true:

- the maximum weight of your vehicle or vehicle combination is under 3.5 tonnes
- your vehicle is exempt from EU rules when driven in the UK
- the vehicle is being used in connection with a trade or business.



GB Domestic Drivers' Hours

- Drivers must not drive for more than ten hours in any one day.
- Drivers must not be on duty for more than 11 hours in any one day.
- Drivers must record their hours on a weekly record sheet or on a tachograph.

Under GB Domestic Rules, a driver who does not drive for more than four hours on each day of the week is exempt from the daily duty limit for the whole week.

Exemptions to GB Rules

You do not need to follow the GB domestic rules if you:

- are dealing with an emergency - for example, a major disruption to public services or danger to life (this only applies while you're dealing with the emergency)
- are using the vehicle for private driving and not for work
- drive off-road or on private roads during duty time
- drive a vehicle used by the armed forces, police or fire brigade



EU Rules

- Drivers must not drive more than nine hours in a day - this can be extended to 10 hours twice a week or,
- Drivers must not drive more than 56 hours in a week or 90 hours in any two consecutive weeks.
- The EU Rules remain valid in the UK despite Brexit.

EU Rules also require:

- at least 11 hours rest every day - this can be reduced to nine hours rest three times between any two weekly rest periods.
- an unbroken rest period of 45 hours every week - this can be reduced to 24 hours every other week
- a break or breaks totalling at least 45 minutes after no more than four hours 30 minutes driving
- weekly rest after six consecutive 24-hour periods of working, starting from the end of the last weekly rest period taken

Some vehicles are exempt from EU Rules when driven in the UK including vehicles below 3.5t GVW. This means most vans are exempt and will need to use the GB domestic rules unless they are towing.

For more information, including exemptions, please visit:
www.gov.uk/drivers-hours/goods-vehicles



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