

END OF TEMPORARY RELAXATION OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF DRIVERS' HOURS RULES

The Department for Transport announced previously a temporarily relaxation of drivers' hours rules from 9 April to 8 May 2022. This was in response to urgent situations arising from the cancellation of P&O Ferries and the congestion for international freight traffic. However, the situation has now improved. In light of this, the Department for Transport is terminating the relaxation early at 23:59 on Friday 22 April 2022.

For the drivers in question, the enforcement of the rules was temporarily relaxed as follows from 00:01 on 9 April 2022.

- Replacement of the EU daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours.
- Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours, together with a relaxation on the use of the ferry/train derogation to allow its use when on a reduced daily rest of 9 hours (instead of when on a regular rest period of 11 hours).
- Lifting the weekly (56 hours) and fortnightly driving limits (90 hours) to 60 and 96 hours respectively.
- Postponement of the requirement to start a weekly rest period after 6 x 24-hour periods, which was temporarily replaced with a requirement to start the weekly rest period after 7 x 24-hour periods, although 2 regular weekly rest periods or a regular and a reduced weekly rest period will still be required within a fortnight.

For weekly and fortnightly driving limits for periods across the end of the relaxation, the higher limits are applicable only if they are required by driving done up to 22 April. For example, a driver that has increased their daily driving limit to 11 hours twice under the relaxations can increase both their weekly and fortnightly driving limits by a total of 4 hours.

Those that have made use of the relaxation (except for international transport and transport between Great Britain and Northern Ireland) should send a completed follow-up notification form within 7 days of the relaxation ending and no later than 29 April 2022.

The situation continues to be under review.

Enquires regarding the resumption of the normal rules should, in the first instance, be made to the Road Freight Regulation Division at the Department for Transport via our email address FOLRnotification@dft.gov.uk