

ECO Practical Guidelines

On

Cross Border Facilitation Measures under conditions of COVID-19

In order to make an effective and efficient regional response for countering the unpleasing effects of COVID-19, as well as maintaining regular supplies of goods, particularly medicines and food stuff and ensuring smooth passage of transportation's means for the perseverance of routine livelihood and socio-economic activities in the ECO region, the ECO Secretariat has formulated the following guidelines to be perused and considered by esteemed Member States:

1. To timely transmit to the ECO Secretariat their provisionally enforced regulatory and normative measures relating to application of procedures for vehicles, drivers and cargoes;
2. To apply the UN TIR Convention (as per Article 28 of TTFA) and related IT tools that allow transportation of goods in a securely loaded compartment, requiring no physical checks and, therefore, reduces physical contacts amongst the individuals at the borders;
3. To use electronic solutions and procedures such as e-TIR and e-CMR instead of paper documents to expedite releases of trucks at borders and decrease risks of physical contacts among the people;
4. To allow an unhindered passage for truck drivers and road trucks (loaded/unloaded). Such measure is especially critical as bans on freight transport adversely affect the lives of the people, bearing unnecessary delays and deterrence for mainstream flow of essential supplies like food and medication.
5. To mitigate the impacts of restrictions on supply chains by minimizing systematic controls and checks at border areas and avoid prolonged quarantine for asymptomatic persons;
6. To introduce designated border crossing points and corridors for transit movements under flagship of the relevant ECO Member States. No deviation from these transit corridors will be allowed. Transit through the territory of each ECO Member State shall be made at minimum interval period not exceeding 48 hours from the time of entry into the country concerned, including the time of daily recreation of drivers. Parking of a vehicle (s) shall exclusively be in designated parking lots located on the transit corridors specified for this purpose.

7. For the cargoes to be unloaded in each ECO Member State, transshipments of freight loads may be offered at BCPs. Any further route (s) within the territory of the Country, on-road freight traffic may be operated by the concerned country's local transport workers.
8. To provide decent recreation conditions/facilities for drivers at border terminals (hotel, dining room, toilet and restrooms) along with sanitary controls and mandatory medical check-ups preventing COVID-19 spread in transit drivers. To improve medical & sanitary facilities capable of providing first medical care facility, with the aim to prevent unforeseen fatalities under COVID-19 conditions at border terminals.
9. To designate and introduce the Special STOP POINT areas for refueling of trucks, payment of road fees, provision of compulsory civil liability insurance policy of an owner of a motor vehicle registered in foreign countries, purchase of personal necessities, food, etc. After completing the procedures at customs checkpoints, transport means shall be ensured non-stop way till the final destination. Vehicles shall only be stopped at specially designated areas - STOP POINTs.
10. Truck drivers have to observe medical protocols on arrival at BCPs, they must have personal protective equipment (medical masks, gloves) on board and use them when they leave the cabin. Whereas further driving along the designated roads and transit corridors in the territory of ECO Member States may be tracked, using GPS tracking devices, till the final destination by local authorities thereby ensuring safety & security of the road transport workers.