Advice for the freight transport industry

This guidance is correct at the time of publishing. However as it is subject to changes, please ensure that the information at time of issue is accurate and correct.
Advice for the freight transport industry (COVID-19)
Updated 17 March 2020

The government is advising against all non-essential travel.

This exceptional advice has been issued because the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has led to unprecedented international border closures and other restrictions.

Domestic freight transport (including by air, ship, road, including roll-on/roll-off transports) is classified by UK government as an essential activity in the context of its travel advice. The advice against non-essential travel is not intended to apply to domestic freight transport.

FCO travel advice remains under constant review and is being updated regularly with the latest information on restrictions and other measures in place in each country/territory. Check the latest travel advice and sign up for email alerts for all countries where you are travelling.

Health and safety
For the travel of accompanied goods vehicles between the Isle of Man and the UK the government is reminding of the importance of enabling social distance measures

The government emphasises the health and safety responsibilities of all organisations connected with freight transport organisations running transport terminals, warehouses and distribution centres to provide access to drivers and crew to toilets, washing facilities and sufficient waiting space.

In addition guidance has also been published about staff in the transport sector.

Borders and travel restrictions
The Isle of Man has closed its borders to all non-residents. People who are ordinarily resident will be able to return home at designated times. However, they will be required to adhere to the new law on mandatory self-isolation for 14 days regardless of whether or not they have symptoms.

The only exceptions to this rule will be a small number of people who may be vital to keeping the island running or to the protection of life. These people will require prior clearance from the Chief Secretary and will be subjected to a careful set of protocols while they are on the Island.

Within Europe, border controls have been re-introduced in many locations and substantial restrictions on international travel have been imposed. The position should be checked country by country on the relevant FCO travel advice pages.

International road freight transport is exempt from many but not all of those of restrictions due to it being an essential activity. The position may change at short notice.

Currently certain countries have closed most border points, imposed quarantine periods on incoming UK road freight transport crew or refused entry. Road transport operators should use the Freight Transport Association’s or Road Haulage Association’s international road transport services to check specific information based on cross-European trade information provided to the International Road Transport Union.
Certain countries and ports have implemented restrictions on berthing, disembarking and unloading of vessels. The department recommends maritime freight operators check specific information and guidance on international trade and policies (including information relating to crew, berthing and isolation) at any port, and in any country, they are operating in.

Insurance
Refer to your insurance provider for advice and guidance during the COVID-19 situation.

Latest health advice
See the latest guidance on COVID-19 for the current situation [gov.im/coronavirus](http://gov.im/coronavirus)

The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) has also produced general advice on preparing for foreign travel and how everyone can reduce the spread of respiratory viruses.

Further advice
