Austria

Reintroduction of border controls on the internal border to Italy (10.03.2020)

Entry into AT from there is only possible with a health certificate (not older than 4 days) or when admitting into 2 week home quarantine; transit without further stops in Austria is allowed. Exceptions for cargo and cross-border workers.

Start date: 10.03.2020
End date: 10 days from starting date

Reintroduction of border controls on the internal border to Liechtenstein and Switzerland

Entry into AT from there is only possible with a health certificate (not older than 4 days) or when admitting into 2 week home quarantine; transit without further stops in Austria is allowed. Exceptions for cargo and cross-border workers.

Start date: 14.03.2020
End date: 10 days from starting date

Suspension of flights and passenger trains; rail service restrictions

Stop of all direct flights (from IT, ES, FR, NL, UK, CH, IR, KO, PRC, RU and UKR) and passenger trains from IT, CZ, SK, SI, CH).

End date: not available

Temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles transporting goods

Austria has agreed to a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles transporting goods. This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006. It will apply to those drivers involved in the delivery of goods domestically and internationally.

Start date: 16.03.2020
End date: 14.04.2020

Lift of weekend traffic ban

Austria notified the Commission that it suspended the weekend traffic ban for >7.5 tonne vehicles.

End date: not available

Contact information:
https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:a37c0451-29fe-4509-bc16-fabd506ebed1/VO%20Vor%C3%BCbergehende%20Wiedereinf%C3%BChrungvon%20Grenzkontrollen%20italien.pdf
https://infothek.bmvit.gv.at/coronavirus-reisehinweise-aktuelle-informationen/
https://www.bmeia.gv.at/

Remarks from the International Road Transport Union

06.05.2020
On 6 May, the Austrian Government extended controls at border crossing points with Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Germany until 31 May.

Source: AISÖ

05.05.2020
Following recent updates on prolongation of controls at the Austrian border, AISÖ has provided further details on the current situation in Austria.

On the border with Italy, smaller border crossing points are closed. Open border crossings are: Brenner, Sillian, Reschenpass and Thörl-Maglern. Traffic can be monitored via webcams here.

On the border with Switzerland, the following border crossings are open:
- Tirol – Pfunds (Goods/passenger traffic)
- Vorarlberg – Mäder (Goods/passenger traffic)
- Vorarlberg – Lustenau (Goods/passenger traffic)
- Vorarlberg – Hohenems (Goods/passenger traffic)
- Vorarlberg – Wohlfurt (Goods traffic)

On the border with Hungary, traffic can be monitored via webcams here and here.

On the border with Slovakia, the following border crossings are open for goods transport:
- Kittsee – Bratislava/Jarovce
- Hohenau – Moravský Svätý Ján (between 05:00 - 24:00 also trucks up to 7.5t)

On the border with the Czech Republic, Czech commuters entering Austria must have the following documents:
- Austrian commuter certificate
- Travel documents (best: passport)
- Further recommended: Copy of the employment contract

Drivers and companies are advised that double manning is permitted, provided that appropriate safety distances (1m), masks and the general COVID-19 rules of conduct are observed. It is mandatory to wear a mask in public places (when entering service stations, toilet facilities, petrol stations – inside).

Source: AISÖ

21.04.2020
On 21 April, AISÖ confirmed that the weekend traffic ban for goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes will be suspended until 17 May.

Source: AISÖ

15.04.2020
On 10 April, the Austrian Government granted a further relaxation of driving and rest time rules. The following relaxations apply to national and international transport from 14 April until 15 May:
- Art. 6.1: replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours.
· Art. 6.2: replacement of the maximum weekly driving limit of 56 hours with one of 60 hours.

· Art. 6.3: replacement of the maximum fortnightly driving limit of 90 hours with one of 100 hours.

Relaxations set out by the previous decree are no longer in place.

Source: ITF

09.04.2020

On 6 April 2020, AISÖ confirmed that in Austria, the weekend and holiday driving ban for trucks over 7.5 tonnes will be suspended until 19 April 2020. However, members should be aware that the sectoral driving bans currently in place in the Tyrol region will remain valid.

25.03.2020

The Ministry of Social Affairs has issued a new regulation which restricts the entry into Austria from land border crossing points of those persons living in or transiting from the following neighbouring countries:

- Italy
- Switzerland
- Liechtenstein
- Germany
- Hungary
- Slovenia

Those wanting to enter Austria must present a medical certificate that can be filled out in German, English or Italian, which proves that their test for SARS-CoV-2 is negative. The medical certificate must not be older than four days at the time of entry, otherwise the authorities may refuse entry.

This regulation does not apply to freight or commuter traffic. This regulation came into force on 20.3.2020.

Source: AISÖ

24.03.2020

Tyrol has issued another Regulation (attached in German only). This Regulation extends the existing measures to 12 April 2020.

In order to prevent the further spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), it is prohibited to enter public places on the entire national territory, while security of the supply chain and the free movement of goods for all municipalities has been guaranteed.

Some of the most important provisions are contained in paragraph 3 of the new Regulation:

1) The entrance to and departure from the municipalities within Tyrolean territory shall be prohibited.

2) Paragraph 1 shall not apply to:

- General trips by suppliers (e.g. food transport) and provision of general services (e.g. road service, waste collection, service companies, public administration, public road and rail transport).

- Supply-critical public infrastructure (e.g. electricity and water supply).

3) In order to ensure the security of the supply chain and the free movement of goods, transit through municipalities on Austrian territory is permitted.
Throughout Austria, the weekend traffic ban for heavy goods vehicles above 7.5 tonnes will be suspended until 3 April 2020 with immediate effect. This measure has been discussed and coordinated with Italy and Bavaria in order to avoid border waiting times as much as possible.

The driving bans for trucks over 7.5 tonnes to the Klingenbach and Deutschkreutz (Burgenland) border crossings have also been lifted to relieve pressure from the Nickelsdorf border point.

At the Austria-Hungarian border:

- Border crossings to be used by international freight traffic departing from or ending in Hungary:
  - Hegyeshalom / Nickelsdorf.
  - Sopron / Klingenbach (transiting vehicles over 7.5t allowed until 05:00 on 20 March).
  - Kópháza / Deutschkreutz (transiting vehicles over 7.5t allowed until 05:00 on 20 March; vehicles over 7.5t with Austrian or Hungarian licence plates permitted until 00:00 on 23 March).
  - Rábafüzes / Heiligenkreuz

- Border crossings to be used by AT-HUN bilateral freight transport (in addition to the three mentioned above):
  - Bucsu / Schachendorf.
  - Koszeg / Rattersdorf.
  - Rábafüzes / Heiligenkreuz.

In addition, the government has announced a temporary relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for drivers in order to eliminate bottlenecks caused by the current crisis. The measures lifted are those in Articles 6 to 9 of the EU Regulation No. 561/2006. This exception applies from 16 March 2020 to 14 April 2020. Measures lifted are the following:

- Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;
- Art. 6(2): replacement of the maximum weekly driving limit of 56 hours with one of 60 hours;
- Art. 6(3): replacement of the maximum fortnightly driving limit of 90 hours with one of 100 hours;
- Art. 7: replacement of the minimum daily breaks requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours;
- Art. 8(2): Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours;
- Art. 8(6): Weekly rest period of at least 24 hours after six 24-hour periods.

Further details can be found in the Regulation.