On the French Customs' website at www.douane.fr, there is a special page which has been set up for operators as part of the management plan for the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.douane.gouv.fr/dossier/informations-coronavirus-covid-19.

As can be seen on the special COVID-19 page, there are no restrictions on the import of goods, and Customs offices are operating virtually as normal, albeit with reduced staffing owing to the containment measures in place. Therefore, if Customs need to be contacted, this should be done by electronic means (practically all Customs clearance procedures are now being performed electronically, and the time taken for clearance, except in the case of selection for checking, is now down to just a few minutes until goods are released).

As regards the special interim measures on imports, in view of the restrictions linked to containment in France and its partner countries, extra time is being allowed for transit of goods.

In addition, having regard to the national emergency in respect of sanitary and medical equipment and supplies, the importers concerned have been given exemptions from Customs duty. Finally, all operators are being accorded payment facilities until the situation returns to normal.

Regarding exports, please note that, owing to the relative shortage of various types of medical and sanitary equipment and supplies, prior authorization must be sought for such goods.

There is an FAQ section to help operators find their way round these provisions.

There is also a business continuity plan (BCP) for the French Customs Administration, should any situation arise which might jeopardize the normal running of Customs activity.

Remarks from the International Road Transport Union

On 14 May, the French Ministry of the Interior issued an authorisation form with which transport companies can perform domestic operations beyond 100km from their place of establishment and outside their department of residence.

Click here to see the form.

Source: AFTRI

The French Government has published a document lifting some of the driving bans for goods vehicles heavier than 7.5 tonnes, on the following days:

- on 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 May, for vehicles delivering parcels by post - text here;
- from 20 to 21 May (public holiday 'Ascension') and 30 May 22:00 to 1 June midnight (public holiday 'Pentecost'), for vehicles carrying out removals - text here;
- from 7 to 8 May and 20 to 21 May, for vehicles transporting food (human or animal), hygiene or medical products (or any product needed for their development) and construction materials (the equipment required for any general public works or the construction of public buildings) - text here.

Source: AFTRI

France has decided not to extend the lifting of driving bans in place for weekends and public holidays, and the temporary relaxation of driving and rest times rules based on the EU Regulation 5612006. This means that the bans in place prior to the lifting/relaxation of rules will apply once again.

This decision may be further reviewed in light of the current circumstances.

Source: AFTRI

On 23 April, APRR provided updates and details on the activities of some rest areas in France that are open to truck drivers. Details can be found here and here.

Source: AFTRI

On 15 April, FNTR and other French transport associations published guidelines on best practices that workers of goods transport and logistics companies must follow to ensure the continuation of activities whilst preventing the spread of Covid-19 virus. Guidelines can be downloaded and consulted here.

Source: FNTR
On 10 April, IRU received confirmation from the European Commission that the French authorities are allowing non-French professional drivers to use the form provided by Annex 3 of the EC communication on Green Lanes – Template of Certificate for International Transport Workers – to enter France.

Source: European Commission

09.04.2020

The applicable driving restrictions on weekends and Public Holidays are lifted until 20 April (further information of the normal applicable bans are available here).

08.04.2020

On 7 April, the French Ministry of Interior published one additional certificate with three variations (to be used according to which type of travel is done) that must be used by people to justify their international movements. The three variations of the certificate cover the following cases and can be downloaded here:

- Travel from mainland France to French overseas territories
- Travel from abroad to mainland France
- Travel from abroad to French overseas territory

Following extensive discussions with national associations and competent authorities, IRU recommends companies to provide drivers with one of the certificates above, plus the written document justifying any movement ("attestation de déplacement") and the certificate for professionals ("Justificatif de déplacement professionnel"). Forms can be downloaded in both French and English by clicking on the hyperlink above. Duly filled forms must be given to the driver before the start of the operations; the driver must present them at the border.

Controls on certificates started on 00:00 of 8 April.

Source: FNTR, AFTRI

06.04.2020

The GEIE of the Mont Blanc Tunnel informs you that, in order to allow maintenance works to be carried out, the traffic in the tunnel will be completely interrupted during the following nights:

- on Monday 20th April 2020, from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.
- on Tuesday 21st April 2020, from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.
- on Wednesday 22nd April 2020, from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.
- on Thursday 23rd April 2020, from 11.30 p.m. to 4.00 a.m.,

For more information, please see attached in English, French and Italian.

Source: TMB

05.04.2020

The French Government has issued a map to inform truck drivers on the service stations which are open and which offer essential services (such as sanitary facilities and take away restaurants). This map also gives information on which vehicle technical centres are open.

Source: AFTRI
According to a decree published on 20 March and an official e-mail answer seen by the IRU and following the confirmation by IRU’s Member Associations in France, FNTR and AFTR, we inform that a crew of two drivers in the cabin is allowed in France (but not a crew of three), as long as the minimum distance of 1 meter is respected.

Moreover, the following temporary relieves apply:

- Daily driving times extended to 10 hours a day. Drivers can also choose to drive for 11 hours a day for a maximum of two days during a week.
- Extension of weekly driving times to 60 hours a week and 102 hours on two consecutive weeks, provided such extensions respect legal provisions on driving and rest times applicable to drivers.

Source: AFTRI and FNTR