

Bulgaria



Source: European Union/Re-open EU

14.12.2020

From an EU Member State or Schengen Associated Country, may I enter this country without being subject to extraordinary restrictions?

Entry Restrictions

Citizens of EU Member States + Schengen Associated countries and their family members are allowed to enter Bulgaria without restrictions.

Full details are available in the [Order RD-01-680 of 27.11.2020 for temporary ban on entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria](#) (in Bulgarian)

Mandatory Travel Documentation

[Self-risk travel declaration](#) available in 8 languages (BG / EN / DE / RU / FR / RO / GR / RS)

What are the rules to enter this country from outside an EU Member State or Schengen Associated country?

Citizens of the following countries can enter the territory of Bulgaria without restrictions:

- Austria;
- Canada
- Georgia
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Rwanda
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Uruguay
- United Arab Emirates
- Israel
- Belarus
- Kuwait
- Turkey
- Serbia
- Albania
- Montenegro
- Moldova
- Ukraine
- North Macedonia

The same applies to travellers who are allowed to enter and who arrive from a starting point located in one of the countries belonging to the previous list.

All people who arrive from a starting point located in a third country not belonging to the previous list and who are authorized to enter according to point n.2 of the [Order RD-01-680 of 27.11.2020 for temporary ban on entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria](#) (in Bulgarian):

are admitted to the territory of Bulgaria **upon submission of a negative PCR test not older than 72 hours.**

Remarks from the International Road Transport Union

02.12.2020

The "emergency epidemic situation" in Bulgaria has been extended until 31 January 2021.

Further information about the COVID-19 and related special procedures can be found attached. The measures for professional drivers remain unchanged.

Source: AEBTRI

26.10.2020

In addition to the other measures in place from 22 October, the use of face masks (or otherwise covering the nose and the mouth - including cloth, scarf, helmet, etc.), is mandatory in open public places, where it is impossible to keep a physical distance of 1.5 metres from others.

Link to official document: [Click here](#)

Source: Ministry of Health of Bulgaria / AEBTRI

02.10.2020

The "emergency epidemic situation" in Bulgaria has been extended until 30 November.

[Attached](#) you will find updated information on the special procedures related to COVID-19. The measures for professional drivers remain unchanged.

Source: AEBTRI

02.09.2020

The emergency epidemic situation in Bulgaria has been extended until 30 September 2020.

[Attached](#) you can find updated information in English on the special procedures related to COVID-19.

Source: AEBTRI

25.06.2020

On 24 June, the Bulgarian authorities extended the emergency epidemic situation **until 15 July.**

Quarantine rules have been set out as follows: people entering the territory of Republic of Bulgaria from Sweden, UK and Portugal, as well as from third countries, except Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican, shall be quarantined for a period of 14 days at home or other accommodation where the person has indicated that he/she will reside, with a prescription issued by the director of the relevant regional health inspectorate, or a person authorised by him.

Exemption to the quarantine provisions are granted to Bulgarian citizens and citizens of other EU Member States, UK, and Schengen States (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) who are:

Bulgarian citizens, as well as long-term and permanent residents in Bulgaria and their family members, who come from countries for which a negative PCR test is required, and who do not present such a test, are subject to a **10-days quarantine**.

To know more:

[Practical information for tourists](#)

Transit

Transit through Bulgaria to the country of residence is allowed for the people who are also allowed to enter the country:

(a) nationals of the EU, a Schengen country, or the UK and their family members;

(b) non-EU nationals, who have a long-term residence permit in another EU Member State, the UK, or in a Schengen country and their family members;

(c) nationals of Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Belarus, Kuwait. Furthermore, nationals of Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Moldova and Turkey, as well as Kuwait and Israel, can transit to return to the country of which they are nationals.

Transit is only permitted when the traveler will immediately leave Bulgaria. Persons who are allowed to transit must submit to health inspectors at the border a declaration, regarding observation of the Ministry of Health's anti-epidemic measures and acknowledgement of the risks of COVID-19.

Additional details can be found on the [Order RD-01-680 of 27.11.2020 for temporary ban on entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria](#) (in Bulgarian).

Find out more:

[Practical information for tourists](#)

[Documents you need to travel in Europe](#)

28.10.2020

Entry Restrictions

Citizens of EU Member States + Schengen Associated countries and their family members are allowed to enter Bulgaria without restrictions.

Full details are available in the [Order RD-01-547 of 30.09.2020 for temporary ban on entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria](#) (in Bulgarian)

Transit

Transit through Bulgaria to the country of residence is allowed for:

(a) nationals of the EU, a Schengen country, or the UK and their family members;

- Travelling for humanitarian reasons
- Representatives of trade, economic and investment activities and persons directly involved in the construction, maintenance, operation and security of strategic and critical infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria. In the implementation of projects certified under the Investment Promotion Act, analysis of projects of potential investors and other activities relevant to the country's economy. The journey must be certified by a letter from the Minister of Economy or other ministries responsible for the respective activities. Persons involved in shipbuilding and ship repair, including their family members, are also exempt
- Bus drivers performing international transport of passengers
- Truck drivers performing or completing international transport of goods
- Vessel crew members who are Bulgarian citizen

The following persons, regardless of their nationality, are also exempt:

- Medical professionals, medical scientists, social workers, and their managers, if the purpose of their journey is linked to their professional work
- Workers involved in the delivery of medicinal products, medical devices and personal protective equipment, medical equipment, including its installation and maintenance
- Officials (Heads of State, Government, etc.) and members of their delegations, as well as diplomats, officials of international organisations, military personnel, personnel of the security and public order services and humanitarian workers, carrying out their duties, including their family members
- Cross-border workers
- State administration officers on short-term business trips abroad, carrying out their duties.

Authorities have also updated the declaration forms (English, Bulgarian and Romanian, Turkish and Czech) for people entering Bulgaria. Members are reminded that such declaration does not substitute Annex 3.

Source: AEBTRI

17.06.2020

International goods transport drivers entering Bulgaria are reminded that they should still complete and sign a declaration, which is now available in [Bulgarian and Romanian, English, Turkish and Czech](#).

The use of face masks is only mandatory on public transport, in pharmacies and medical institutions, and strongly recommended when physical distancing cannot be guaranteed.

Source: AEBTRI

12.06.2020

On 12 June, the Bulgarian government extended the state of emergency **until 30 June**. The same measures apply.

Source: AEBTRI

05.06.2020

After assessing the epidemiological situation, the Bulgarian Minister of Health issued a [new order](#) (already in force) on 4 June amending the previous order issued on 14 May.

(b) non-EU nationals, who have a long-term residence permit in another EU Member State, the UK, or in a Schengen country and their family members;

(c) Nationals of Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Moldova and Turkey, as well as Kuwait and Israel, can transit to return to the country of which they are nationals.

Transit is only permitted when the traveler will immediately leave Bulgaria. Persons who are allowed to transit must submit to health inspectors at the border a declaration, regarding observation of the Ministry of Health's anti-epidemic measures and acknowledgement of the risks of COVID-19.

Mandatory Travel Documentation

[Self-risk travel declaration](#) available in 8 languages (BG / EN / DE / RU / FR / RO / GR / RS)

Citizens of **Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Kuwait, Turkey** can enter the territory of Bulgaria without restrictions.

Third countries

All people who arrive from all other third countries and who:

- have permanent status, long-term or long-term residence on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria (including member of their families);

- hold a Bulgarian long-stay visa type "D", as well as a residence permit in a EU+ country (including member of their families)

are admitted to the territory of Bulgaria upon submission of a negative PCR test not older than 72 hours before entry.

30.09.2020

Transit

Transit through Bulgaria to the country of residence is allowed for:

(a) nationals of the EU, a Schengen country, or the UK and their family members;

(b) non-EU nationals, who have a long-term residence permit in another EU Member State, the UK, or in a Schengen country and their family members;

(c) Nationals of Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Moldova and Turkey, as well as Kuwait and Israel, can transit to return to the country of which they are nationals.

Transit is only permitted when the traveler will immediately leave Bulgaria. Persons who are allowed to transit must submit to health inspectors at the border a declaration, regarding observation of the Ministry of Health's anti-epidemic measures and acknowledgement of the risks of COVID-19.

Third-country national coming from outside the EU and Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein

Citizens of Austria, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, United Arab Emirates can enter the territory of Bulgaria without restrictions.

The exceptions of the temporary entry ban for all foreign nationals through all border crossing points by all means of transport have changed for the following categories:

- persons arriving from the Republic of North Macedonia are not exempt anymore from entry and transit bans;

- in addition, persons arriving from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro are now exempt from entry and transit bans;

- **coach and truck drivers are exempt from these restrictions.**

Source: AEBTRI

02.06.20

On 30 May, the Bulgarian government put in place some more deconfinement measures:

- The range of categories allowed to enter and/or transit through the Bulgarian territory has been expanded;
- The range of categories not subject to mandatory quarantine has been expanded; quarantine for Bulgarian coach and truck drivers coming from abroad has been lifted (non-Bulgarian drivers were permitted to enter the country without quarantine before that);
- The special regime for non-Bulgarian drivers, including the 24 hours deadline for leaving the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, has been lifted.

Individuals entering Bulgaria who are not subject to quarantine provisions are still required to present a [declaration](#) to the border authorities.

Full details can be read [here](#).

Source: AEBTRI

25.05.2020

From 22 May, anyone permitted to enter the territory of Bulgaria without quarantine (ie. truck drivers entering and transiting Bulgaria) will be required to present a new declaration to the border health control authorities. This declaration is available in [Bulgarian](#), [English](#), and [Romanian](#).

In order to minimise waiting times, drivers are advised to fill in the declaration prior to their arrival at the border crossing points.

Source: AEBTRI

14.05.2020

On 13 May, Bulgarian Authorities lifted the state of emergency and introduced an "emergency epidemic situation", which will be in place **from 14 May until 14 June**.

Entry bans for all foreign nationals are still in place, while measures concerning international drivers remain practically the same and can be consulted [here](#) (in Bulgarian only).

Source: AEBTRI

07.05.2020

On 7 May, the Bulgarian government put into force the following deconfinement measures:

All people who arrive from all other third countries and who:

- have permanent status, long-term or long-term residence on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria (including member of their families);

- hold a Bulgarian long-stay visa type "D", as well as a residence permit in a EU+ country (including member of their families)

are admitted to the territory of Bulgaria upon submission of a negative PCR test not older than 72 hours before entry.

EU+ comprises EU Member States plus Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Andorra, Monaco, Vatican City State and the Republic of San Marino.

Full details are available in the [Order RD-01-488 of 31.08.2020 for temporary ban on entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria](#) (in Bulgarian)

1.09.2020

A temporary ban has been introduced for the entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria of all persons, regardless of their nationality, through all border crossings, by air, sea, railway and road transport.

The ban does not apply to:

- **Bulgarian citizens** and persons with permanent status or long-term residence in Bulgaria, and members of their families;

- **Nationals** as well as persons holding a residence permit of Member States of the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom, Schengen Parties (including the Republic of San Marino, the Principality of Andorra, the Principality of Monaco and the Vatican City State) and members of their families;

- **Citizens** of Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, the United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Moldova, Israel, Kuwait, Belarus and Turkey.

Is entry based on nationality, residency or location of departure?

The main driver is **nationality/residency**, which sets if a traveller is authorised to enter the country. Additionally, only for authorised travellers, the location of departure defines if a PCR test is required or not. For the purposes of this order, the country from which a traveller arrives is considered to be the country of departure, irrespective of his stay or transit through other countries during his journey.

All persons authorised to enter the country, and arriving from a starting point in one of the above-mentioned countries, shall be admitted in Bulgaria without the need to provide a certificate showing a negative PCR result for COVID-19.

All persons **who are allowed entry into the country, and who arrive from a starting point in a third country outside the above mentioned list**, shall be admitted in Bulgaria only after providing a document showing a negative PCR result for COVID-19 conducted within 72 hours before entering the country. This certificate shall contain the name of the person according to the identity document with which he is travelling, information on the laboratory carrying out the test (name, address or other contact details), date on which the examination was carried out, written in the Latin method and allowing interpretation of the document.

The Bulgarian citizens, as well as long-term and permanent residents in Bulgaria and the members of their families who come from countries for which a negative PCR test is required, and who do not present such a test, are subject to 14 days of quarantine.

The following special check-points, initially established at all entries and exits of the town of Bansko and of all regional centres, have been lifted: Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Vidin, Vratsa, Gabrovo, Dobrich, Kardzhali, Kyustendil, Lovech, Montana, Pazardzhik, Pernik, Pleven, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Ruse, Silistra, Sliven, Smolyan, Sofia, Stara Zagora, Targovishte, Haskovo, Shumen, Yambol.

People and drivers can freely enter and exit these cities with no delays.

The use of a facial mask is already mandatory in closed public spaces. Nevertheless, people and drivers who are in open public places are required to comply with the requirement of social distancing and all anti-epidemic measures, and wear a protective mask in case there is a need to be in contact with others.

The border health authorities stopped issuing instruction notes to non-Bulgarian drivers entering Bulgaria; this will reduce waiting times at border crossing points.

The regime for non-Bulgarian drivers coming from a country with registered COVID-19 cases, is currently as follows:

- Drivers of goods vehicles transporting goods destined for the Bulgarian market should enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, unload the goods transported (and load goods for the return trip, if need be), and immediately leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

- Transit through the Republic of Bulgaria is only permitted on routes determined by the Road Infrastructure Agency.

The deadline for leaving the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria cannot exceed 24 hours from entry into the country.

Measures apply immediately and until further notice.

Source: AEBTRI

24.04.2020

Until 13 May, Bulgaria introduced a new obligation making the **use of facial masks mandatory for all**, including drivers, in open or closed public spaces.

In addition, measures applying to drivers have also been slightly amended. The following regime is in place for non-Bulgarian drivers coming from a country with registered COVID-19 cases:

- drivers of goods vehicles transporting goods destined for the Bulgarian market should enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, unload the goods transported and/or load goods, and immediately leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria; and

- drivers of goods vehicles transporting goods destined for other countries are permitted to transit through the Republic of Bulgaria on a route determined by the Road Infrastructure Agency.

The border health authorities shall issue an [instruction note](#) to drivers passing through the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria specifying:

- the date and time at which they should leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria; and

- the border crossing point at which they have to exit.

Source: AEBTRI

14.04.2020

Today, the Bulgarian Road Infrastructure Agency has issued an order temporarily suspending the official holidays driving ban for trucks over 12 tonnes.

Other exceptions are also identified. Full details may be found in the [Order No RD-01-459 of 31.08.2020](#) of the Minister of Health.
[Driving abroad](#)

Source: <https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/BGR>



Source: European Commission

18.08.2020

Entry requirements

01 - 31 August 2020 additional rules under Ordinances of the Minister of Health apply on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria:

- Persons, arriving from the following countries are excluded from the effective temporary ban on entry on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria: EU countries, UK, the Schengen states, including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco, the Vatican, Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Ruanda, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Tunis, Uruguay, Jordan, Ukraine, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, Israel, Kuwait, as well as persons possessing Type D Bulgarian Visa for long-term residence. The other exceptions from the temporary ban still include medical and transport personnel, officials, persons traveling for humanitarian (within the meaning of § 1, item 16 of the additional provisions of the Law for the Foreigners of the Republic of Bulgaria) or educational reasons, seasonal workers and workers in the field of tourism, as well as representatives of trade, economic and investment activities and persons directly related to: construction, maintenance, operation and ensuring the safety of the strategic and critical infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria, implementation of projects certified under the Investment Promotion Act, analyzes of projects of potential investors and other activities relevant to the country's economy, certified by a letter from the Minister of Economy or another minister responsible for the respective activity, as well as persons engaged in shipbuilding and ship repair and members of their families. The letter of the respective minister shall be submitted to the border control authorities;
- All persons, who are excluded from the temporary ban and commencing their travel from the territory of a Member State of the European Union, UK, Schengen states (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican), Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, Jordan and Ukraine shall be allowed on the territory of Bulgaria without the requirement to present a document, proving a negative PCR test result for COVID-19.
- Excluded from the temporary ban on entry are also organizers and participants in international sports competitions - for the time of the respective sporting event, certified by a letter from the Minister of Youth and Sports, in which the names of the persons and the place (address) of their stay in Bulgaria are indicated. The letter should be submitted to the border control authorities.
- Foreign citizens, who are to receive a decree under the Bulgarian Citizenship Law for acquiring a Bulgarian citizenship, certified by a letter from the Minister of Justice are also excluded from the temporary ban.

In addition, the Bulgarian Government has granted further temporary tolerance concerning the enforcement of driving and rest time rules for drivers under Reg. (EC) 561/2006 regarding the national and international transport of goods. This exception applies **from 17 April 2020, 00:00 to 17 May 2020, 24:00**. Measures lifted are the following:

- Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;
- Art. 7: replacement of the minimum daily break requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours;
- Art. 8(6): possibility to take two consecutive reduced weekly rest periods of minimum 24 hours, provided that:
 - the drivers take at least 4 weekly rests within these 4 consecutive weeks and at least two of them should be regular weekly rests
 - the two reduced weekly rests should be compensated before the next rest period
- Derogation to Article 8(8) of Regulation 561/2006: possibility for the driver to take the regular weekly rest in the vehicle, as long as it has suitable sleeping facilities for each driver and the vehicle is stationary.

Source: AEBTRI

14.04.2020

The Bulgarian Road Infrastructure Agency has published an interactive map of the green corridors for road transport of goods transiting the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. The map contains useful information on rest areas and the respective number of parking slots, sanitary facilities, possibility to buy food, availability of internet connection, lighting, video surveillance, fuel station, nearest emergency services, number of slots for refuelling refrigerated trucks, etc.: <http://www.api.bg/index.php/en/green-corridors> or <https://www.bgtoll.bg/en>

Source: AEBTRI

08.04.2020

Restrictions

In a new order issued on 6 April, the Minister of Health has confirmed the temporary entry ban for all third country (non-EU) nationals through all border crossing points by all means of transport. Entry bans apply to all persons coming from the following countries, irrespective of their nationality: Italy, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Lichtenstein and Luxembourg.

The following categories are excluded from the prohibitions above:

- a) Bulgarian citizens, family members of Bulgarian citizens, persons with permanent, long-term residence status in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and members of their families;
- b) Medical professionals, medical scientists and social workers, if the purpose of their journey is linked to their professional work;
- c) Transport personnel engaged in the carriage of goods, aircraft crews engaged in commercial air transport and other transport personnel, as appropriate;
- d) Foreign officials (Heads of State, Government, etc.) and members of their delegations, as well as diplomats, officials of international organisations, military personnel and humanitarian workers carrying out their duties;
- e) Persons travelling for humanitarian reasons;

- Transit through the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is now allowed to persons, traveling from countries, excluded from the temporary ban, the Republic of Moldova, or citizens of the Republic of Turkey, returning to their home country.
- Persons arriving from the following countries should present a document proving a negative COVID-19 PCR test result, issued up to 72 hours before their arrival to Bulgaria: all third countries, except those excluded from the temporary ban on entry, and those, beginning their travel from a starting point from third countries other than those referred to in the second paragraph of the current text, including Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, Israel and Kuwait. The document should contain the names of the person according to the ID card, which they use during their travel, data about the laboratory that performed the test (name, address or other contact details), date on which the test was performed, written in English - method (PCR) and negative result (Negative), which would allow correct interpretation of the document.
- In case of a passenger with COVID-19 on board an aircraft, landed on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, the cabin crew members who serviced the passenger are not to be scheduled for the next flight and will be a subject of a quarantine for a period of 14 days with a prescribe, issued by the director of the respective regional health inspection or an official authorized by him.

Start date: 01.08.2020

End date: 31.08.2020

22.07.2020

Transit through Bulgaria

Transit through the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, upon submitting a declaration to Border Health Control Authorities, shall be granted to:

- citizens of EU Member States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Schengen countries (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members in order to return to their country of residence;
- third-country nationals who hold a long-term residence permit in another EU Member State, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or a Schengen country (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members in order to return to the country of residence;
- citizens of Serbia, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Albania and Kosovo in order to return to the country of which they are nationals.

Transit shall be allowed only when immediate departure from the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is guaranteed.

Start date: 18.06.2020

End date: 30.06.2020

Further information: https://www.mh.government.bg/media/filer_public/2020/06/17/z...

More info: <https://www.mfa.bg/en/customnews/main/24737>

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/home_en

f) Nationals of Member States of the European Union and Schengen States (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and third-country nationals directly involved in the construction, maintenance, operation and security of strategic and critical infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria; and

g) Frontier workers and seasonal farm workers.

Transit through the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is allowed for:

a) Nationals of Member States of the European Union and Schengen States (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members in order to return to their country of residence;

b) Third-country nationals who hold a long-term residence permit in another Member State of the European Union or in a Schengen country (including San Marino, Andorra, Monaco and the Vatican) and their family members in order to return to their country of residence;

c) Citizens of Serbia, the Republic of Northern Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey in order to return to their country;

d) Transport personnel engaged in the carriage of goods, aircraft crews engaged in commercial air transport and other transport personnel, as appropriate, to which the special rules apply.

Bulgarian truck drivers arriving from a country with registered Covid-19 cases are subject to the 14-day quarantine period. During the quarantine period they are permitted to transit Bulgaria for the purpose of carrying out or completing international transport:

i. to transit through the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;

ii. to be in the cab of the truck;

iii. to drive the truck;

iv. to carry out loading and unloading activities; and

v. to leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria before the quarantine period has ended.

The following regime has been introduced for non-Bulgarian drivers - citizens of the above countries or coming from them or having passed through the territory of such a country:

i. drivers of goods vehicles transporting goods destined for the Bulgarian market should enter the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, unload the goods transported and/or load goods, and immediately leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria; and

ii. drivers of goods vehicles transporting goods destined for other countries are permitted to transit through the Republic of Bulgaria on a route determined by the Road Infrastructure Agency.

The National Toll Administration shall issue an instruction note to drivers passing through the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria which shall specify:

• the date and time at which they should leave the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria; and

• the border crossing point at which they have to exit.

The determined deadline for leaving the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria may not exceed 24 hours from the issuance of the instruction note.

In cases where drivers of goods vehicles which are allowed to transit Bulgaria, but due to a ban by a neighbouring state cannot leave Bulgaria, a place will be determined where the truck and the driver must stay until the ban is abolished, after that he has to leave the country.

i WCO/Bulgarian Customs Agency

19.03.2020

The Bulgarian Customs Agency publishes information regarding COVID-19 on its administration's web-site :
<https://customs.bg/wps/portal/agency/media-center/on-focus/covid-19> in Bulgarian and
<https://customs.bg/wps/portal/agency-en/media-center/on-focus/covid-19> in English.

i Mandatory 14-day quarantine (17.03.2020)

Bulgaria has issued an Ordinance N130 which establishes nationals of which countries shall be placed in quarantine for a period of 14 days. All Bulgarian nationals or foreign nationals having their permanent, long-term or extended residence on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and their family members arriving from certain countries shall be placed in quarantine for a period of 14 days either at their home or at a placement facility at which said persons have stated they would reside. For the list of countries and exemptions refer to the website.

Start date: 17.03.2020

End date: not available

Temporary ban on the entry of third-country nationals into the territory of Bulgaria (19.03.2020)

Bulgaria has issued an Ordinance N138 temporarily prohibiting the entry of third-country nationals into Bulgaria. The entry into the territory of Bulgaria shall be temporarily prohibited from 00:00 hours on 20 March until 17 April 2020, inclusive, to all third-country nationals at all border crossing points and with any means of transport, including aviation, maritime, rail and road. The ban on entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria of persons arriving from the following EU Member States and Schengen countries shall remain in force: Italy, Spain, France, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, except Bulgarian citizens, family members of Bulgarian citizens and persons with permanent and long-term residence status on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. Citizens from these EU Member States and Schengen countries and their family members are allowed to transit through the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria in order to return to their country of residence. For further information and possible exemptions consult the website.

Start date: 20.03.2020

End date: 17.04.2020

Contact information:

<http://www.mh.government.bg/bg/novini/aktualno/ministr-na-zdraveopazvaneto-izdade-zapoved-za-lic/>

On 30 March 2020 and until further notice, the border crossing point between Bulgaria and Greece "Zlatograd-Thermes" has been closed due to the spread of Covid-19 and a quarantine has been announced in the respective Greek border region.

Special check-points have been established at all entries and exits of the town of Bansko and of all regional centres: Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Vidin, Vratsa, Gabrovo, Dobrich, Kardzhali, Kyustendil, Lovech, Montana, Pazardzhik, Pernik, Pleven, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Ruse, Silistra, Sliven, Smolyan, Sofia, Stara Zagora, Targovishte, Haskovo, Shumen, Yambol.

People can enter and exit these cities only to work, for medical reasons, care of their relatives, and to buy essential basic products and medicines.

Truck drivers are allowed to pass through these check points but delays are possible.

Relieves

The Bulgarian Government has granted a temporary tolerance concerning the enforcement of driving and rest times for drivers under EU Regulation 561/2006 to the national and international transport of goods. This exception applies from 19 March 2020, 00:00 to 16 April 2020, 24:00. Measures lifted are the following:

i. Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;

ii. Article 7: replacement of the minimum daily break requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours; and

iii. Art. 8(6): reduction of the regular weekly rest period from 45 hours to 24 hours.

On 13 March 2020, Bulgarian authorities introduced a state of emergency in the country. Currently the state of emergency has been extended until 13 May.

Source: AEBTRI

31.03.2020

In a new order, from 00:00 on 20 March 2020 until 17 April 2020, the Minister of Health has temporarily prohibited entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria of all third country (non-EU) nationals through all border crossing points by all means of transport. Transport personnel engaged in the transport of goods are excluded from the scope of this order.

The prohibition of entry of EU nationals from countries with registered infected persons with COVID-19 and the respective arrangements for drivers coming from these countries, previously announced, remains in force (official information available here). Bulgarian citizens, as well as persons with either long or permanent residence in Bulgaria, and their families, are exempt from this ban. They will be subject to a 14-day quarantine either at home or any other accommodation of their choice. A special regime has been arranged for the truck drivers (official decree here):

- Bulgarian truck drivers are also subject to the 14-day quarantine, unless they are returning to one of the countries on the list. In this instance they must remain in quarantine until they leave;

- Non-Bulgarian drivers - citizens of the above countries or coming from them - can load and unload goods, but should then immediately leave the territory of Bulgaria. The duration of their movement through the territory of the country should not exceed 24 hours;

- All trucks transiting the country, irrespective of their nationality, are escorted by police. In addition, all foreign trucks entering Bulgaria are escorted by police to their unloading point.

In addition, according to an additional order published by the Ministry of Health, entry and transit of trucks registered and coming from the Islamic Republic of Iran are temporarily forbidden.

On 30.03.2020, and until further notice, the border crossing point between Bulgaria and Greece "Zlatograd-Thermes" has been closed due to the spread of COVID-19 and quarantine measures have been announced in the respective Greece border region.

Special check-points have been established at all entries and exits of the town of Bansko and of all regional centers: Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Vidin, Vratsa, Gabrovo, Dobrich, Kardzhali, Kyustendil, Lovech, Montana, Pazardzhik, Pernik, Pleven, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Ruse, Silistra, Sliven, Smolyan, Sofia, Stara Zagora, Targovishte, Haskovo, Shumen and Yambol.

People can enter and exit these cities only for work, for health purposes, care of their relatives, necessity to obtain basic products and medicines. Truck drivers are allowed to pass through this check point but delays are possible.

Source: AEBTRI

19.03.2020

In a new order, from 00:00 on 20 March 2020 until 17 April 2020, the Minister of Health has temporarily prohibited entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria of all third country (non-EU) nationals through all border crossing points by all means of transport. Transport personnel engaged in the transport of goods are excluded from the scope of this order.

The prohibition of entry of EU nationals from Italy, Spain, France, UK, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland and the respective arrangements for drivers coming from these countries, previously announced, remains in force.

Source: AEBTRI

19.03.2020

Restrictions

As of 00:00, 18.03.2020, entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria for people coming from the following countries is forbidden: China (the People's Republic of); Iran (the Islamic Republic of); Bangladesh; India; Maldives (the Republic of); Nepal (the Federal Democratic Republic of); Sri Lanka (the Democratic Socialist Republic of); Spain; Italy; Korea (the Republic of); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Northern Ireland; France; Germany; the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Bulgarian citizens, as well as persons with either long or permanent residence in Bulgaria, and their families, are exempt from this ban. They will be subject to a 14-day quarantine either at home or any other accommodation of their choice.

A special regime has been arranged for the truck drivers (official decree [here](#)):

- Bulgarian truck drivers are also subject to the 14-day quarantine, unless they are returning to one of the countries on the list. In this instance they must remain in quarantine until they leave;
- Non-Bulgarian drivers - citizens of the above countries or coming from them - can load and unload goods, but should then immediately leave the territory of Bulgaria. In the case of transit, the transit operation should be done within 24 hours;
- In addition, an according to an additional order published by the Ministry of Health, entry and transit of trucks registered and coming from the Islamic Republic of Iran are temporarily forbidden.

Relieves

The Bulgarian government granted temporary tolerance concerning the enforcement of driving and resting times for drivers under the [EU Regulation 561/2006](#) to the national and international transport of goods. This exception applies from 19/03/2020 00:00 to 16/04/2020 24:00. Measures lifted are the following:

- Art. 6(1): replacement of the maximum daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;
- Article 7: replacement of the minimum daily breaks requirements by imposing a break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours;
- Art. 8(6): reduction of the regular weekly rest period from 45 hours to 24 hours.

Source: AEBTRI