



18 March 2020. (V.1)

## **COVID-19 Drivers Hours Limits Key Points from the TEMPORARY relaxation**

The DfT has agreed to a temporary relaxation of the enforcement of EU drivers' hours rules in England, Scotland and Wales for the drivers of lorries **delivering food, personal care and household paper and cleaning products and over the counter pharmaceuticals** when undertaking the following journeys:

- 1. Distribution centre to stores (or fulfilment centre)**
- 2. From manufacturer or supplier to distribution centre (including backhaul collections)**
- 3. From manufacturer or supplier to store (or fulfilment centre)**
- 4. Between distribution centres and transport hub trunking**
- 5. Transport hub deliveries to stores**

This exemption does not apply to drivers delivering directly to consumers.

**The time period and the sectors covered may change.**

The current relaxation applies from **00:01 on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020** until **23:59 on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020**.

The relaxation should only be used when needed. All operations **MUST** still be operated safely and employers need to ensure that drivers do not driver when tired.

The relaxation is limited, the relaxation **only** applies as follows:-

- a) Replacement of the EU daily driving limit of 9 hours with one of 11 hours;**
- b) Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours;**
- c) Lifting the weekly (56 hours) and fortnightly driving limits (90 hours) to 60 and 96 hours respectively;**

- d) **Postponement of the requirement to start a weekly rest period after six-24 hours periods, for after seven 24 hours period; although two regular weekly rest periods or a regular and a reduced weekly rest period will still be required within a fortnight;**
- e) **The requirements for daily breaks of 45 minutes after 4.5 hours driving replaced with replaced with a break of 45 minutes after 5.5 hours of driving.**

Drivers' cannot use relaxation 'a' and 'd' at the same time.

**Drivers using the relaxation must note on the back of their tachograph charts or printouts the reasons why they are exceeding normally permitted limits.**

This is usual practice in emergencies and is essential for enforcement purposes.

Enquiries regarding interpretation of these temporary arrangements should, in the first instance, be made to the Freight Operator Licensing & Roadworthiness Division at the Department for Transport via the switchboard on 0207 944 3000 (during office hours) or to the DfT Duty Office on 0207 944 5999 (out of office hours).

The RHA will update this summary as soon as possible when changes occur.

**Road Haulage Association  
18 March 2020**

**Version 1.**