



Driving restrictions

France- Goods transport

Here we have gathered information on HGV restrictions and restrictions related to public holidays.

Information provided by:



Driving restrictions

Are there any driving restrictions on international HGV traffic at weekends or on public holidays?

Yes

Vehicle(s) concerned	Period	Location	Exception
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Goods road motor vehicle (GVW >7.5t)

01/01

to

31/12

Saturdays

Eve of public holidays

From 22h to 24h

Throughout the road and motorway network

Section

All

Direction

Both directions

See global exceptions below



Goods road motor vehicle (GVW >7.5t)

01/01

to

31/12

Sundays

Public holidays

From 00h to 22h

Throughout the road and motorway network

Section

All

Direction

Both directions

See global exceptions below



Goods road motor vehicle (GVW >7.5t)

05/02/2022

to

05/03/2022

Saturdays

From 7h to 18h on Saturdays 5/02, 12/02, 19/02, 26/02 and 5/03.

On the roads defined in the document attached below (Bison Futé booklet)

Section

As defined in attachment

Direction

Both directions (unless stated differently)

Note that traffic is authorised from 18h to 22h on these dates.

See also global exceptions below.



Goods road motor vehicle (GVW >7.5t)

16/07/2022

to
20/08/2022

Saturdays

From 7h to 19h on Saturdays 16/07, 23/07, 30/07, 06/08, 13/08, and 20/08.

Throughout the road and motorway network

Section

All

Direction

Both directions

Note that traffic is authorised from 19h to 24h on these dates.

See also global exceptions below.

Exceptions

The vehicles concerned by these restrictions are trucks and combination vehicles with a maximum gross weight of over 7.5t, with the exception of special vehicles and agricultural machinery and devices.

General exceptions are available in the official text in the following link:

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043416004> (in French). An unofficial translation is available in the attachment.

Additional information

The prefectures of Alsace and Moselle published the decrees allowing the lifting of the driving bans applicable on 15 April (Good Friday). Additionally, the bans are lifted in Bas-Rhin, in Alsace, on 26 December 2022 (Saint-Etienne). These days are ordinary days at national level, but public holidays in these territories.

- Bas-Rhin (Alsace): Lifting of driving bans applicable to vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, including dangerous goods, on 15 April 2022 and 26 December 2022
- Haut-Rhin (Alsace): Lifting of driving bans applicable to vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, including dangerous goods, on 15 April 2022
- Moselle: Lifting of driving bans applicable to vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, including dangerous goods, on 15 April 2022

Unofficial translation exceptions Driving restrictions in France.pdf

(/system/files/jpi/dr/2022-

02/Unofficial%20translation%20exceptions%20Driving%20restrictions%20in%20France.pdf)

Booklet in French and English summarising all restrictions

(<https://www.bison-fute.gouv.fr/brochure-les-restrictions.html>)

Vehicle(s) concerned

Period

Location

Exception



Goods road motor vehicle (GVW >3.5t) in transit

01/01

to

31/12

Every day

All day

M35 (former A35) on the Eurometropole of Strasbourg

Section

All

Direction

Both directions

None

map of restricted area

(https://www.strasbourg.eu/documents/976405/1084293/2021_12_M35_trafic_poids_lourds.pdf/927b651f-68fd-d595-449e-297ecd9be986?t=1638956959756)

Annual public holidays

11 Nov 2023	Armistice Day	All country
25 Dec 2023	Christmas Day	All country
1 Jan 2023	New Year's Day	All country
7 Apr 2023	Good Friday	in Alsace and Moselle only
10 Apr 2023	Easter Monday	All country
26 Apr 2023	St Stephen's Day	in Alsace and Moselle only
1 May 2023	Labour Day	All country
8 May 2023	Victory Day	All country
18 May 2023	Ascension Day	All country
29 May 2023	Whit Monday	All country
14 Jul 2023	National Day	All country
15 Aug 2023	Assumption	All country
1 Nov 2023	All Saints' Day	All country
11 Nov 2023	Armistice Day	All country
25 Dec 2023	Christmas Day	All country

Art.4 Permanent derogations

Permanent derogations, which are not subject to special authorisation, are granted for the following transport operations:

1. vehicles transporting, to the exclusion of all else, live animals or perishable goods or foodstuffs, provided that the quantity of goods occupies at least half of the loading surface or volume of the vehicle.

In the case of multiple deliveries, these minimum loading conditions no longer apply beyond the first point of delivery provided that further deliveries occur within a zone restricted to the region of origin of the first delivery point and the neighbouring departments or the region of origin.

Vehicles transporting racehorses are not subject to minimum load conditions.

The vehicles concerned are not subject to minimum load conditions and may travel empty if their movements consist of loading operations restricted to a zone consisting of the region of origin and its neighbouring departments or the region of origin.

Are considered perishable goods and products : eggs; live fish, crustaceans and shellfish; foodstuffs requiring refrigeration; frozen and deep-frozen foodstuffs, in particular meat products, seafood, milk and dairy products, egg-based products, yeast and vegetable products including refrigerated fruit juices and ready-to-use chopped raw vegetables; all foodstuffs which must be kept warm; fresh fruit and vegetables, including potatoes, onions and garlic; cut flowers, and potted plants and flowers; honey; animal carcasses; fermentable or hygroscopic products of starchy origin; drugs or health products whose preservation requires that they be refrigerated or maintained at a specific temperature.

2a. Vehicles engaged in the seasonal collection and transport of agricultural produce from the place of harvesting to the place of storage, processing, packaging or transformation, within an area made up of the region of origin and the neighbouring departments or the region of origin and adjacent regions.

2b. Vehicles engaged in the seasonal transport of beet pulp from the processing plant to the place of storage or use. These vehicles may not use the motorway network.

3a. Vehicles whose load is indispensable for the installation of economic, sporting, cultural, educational or political events which have been duly authorised, on condition that the said event is to take place at the latest 4 days before or after the transport.

3b. Vehicles transporting fireworks, the use of which has been duly authorised for the same day or the following day.

3c. Vehicles transporting hydrocarbon gas mixture, liquefied, NOS, UN1965, or petroleum products, UN 1202, 1203, 1223, necessary for duly authorised sporting competitions, on condition that the event justifying the transport operation is to be held on the same day as or, at the latest, the day after the transport operation.

4. Vehicles transporting newspapers and magazines, or transporting electoral material within the framework of the elections mentioned in the electoral code.

5. Vehicles carrying out office or factory removals.

6. Vehicles specially equipped for the itinerant sale of the goods transported, within an area made up of the region of origin and the neighbouring departments or the region of origin and adjacent regions.

7. Vehicles belonging to tradesmen and which are used for the sale of their produce at fairs or markets within an area made up of the region of origin and the neighbouring departments or of the region of origin and adjacent regions.

8. Vehicles used for the transport of air freight, under cover of an air waybill.

9. Vehicles used for the transport of hospital waste or goods necessary for the operation of medical establishments (including establishments for elderly people), and medical good or goods for sanitary protection.

10. Vehicles transporting industrial gamma radiography equipment.

11. Vehicles essential for unscheduled repair operations on public energy, drinking water, sanitation, heating and communication equipment.

12. Vehicles essential to operations to maintain the safety of transport infrastructures.

13. Tank vehicles used for the supply of fuels (liquid or gaseous):

a. of service stations located along highways and roads with controlled access,

b. of airports for aircraft,

c. of sea and river ports for professional and passenger ships and fishing boats.

14. Vehicles used for the evacuation of waste from ships in ports, waste collection centers and slaughterhouses. This excludes vehicles ensuring the evacuation of mobile waste collection centres, specific skips and containers, voluntary drop-off points and the collection of bio-waste.

For all vehicles benefiting from a permanent derogation, empty return is authorised within a zone restricted to the region of the first or last delivery point and the neighbouring departments or the region of the first or last delivery point and adjacent regions. Vehicles which have been used to transport homing pigeons are authorised to travel empty throughout the road network. The vehicles mentioned under points 3, 6 and 7 may travel laden at the end of the event or the sale, within a zone restricted to the region of the place where the event or sale took place and its neighbouring departments.

Art.5 Short-term derogations

So-called short-term prefectural derogations may be granted for vehicles performing a transport operation considered as indispensable and urgent to respond to a crisis situation or to events of particular gravity, whatever their origin, likely to threaten human lives, compromise security or freedom movement of people and goods or harm the environment. This includes:

1. vehicles performing a transport operation to deal with the consequences (including financial) of any crisis situation mentioned above;

2. vehicles performing a transport operation to deal with risks linked with an accident or a disaster likely to threaten human lives, or could harm people, goods or the environment.

Specific short-term prefectural derogations may also be granted for the following vehicles:

1. Vehicles transporting goods to meet essential or urgent needs following an unforeseen event, such as a breakdown or blocking damage in a first to fourth category establishment open to the public, a professional vessel or a site of production;

2. Vehicles ensuring the supply of distribution centers threatened with a shortage due to an unforeseen event or a temporary context linked to an unforeseen situation;

3. Vehicles transporting goods necessary for the continuous operation of certain departments or production units. When they relate to the transport of dangerous goods, these exemptions are investigated;

4. Vehicles transporting goods which contribute to the execution of public services in order to meet immediate collective needs or which contribute to works or operations for which security and public order justify that these vehicles circulate for a period of traffic ban;

5. Vehicles which ensure the supply of clean laundry and the evacuation of dirty laundry from hotel structures with a capacity of at least 200 rooms per structure, including when the collection or delivery of laundry concerns several hotels located on the same site. reception unit, such as an amusement park or holiday centre;

6. Vehicles transporting compound food for animals on farms;
7. Vehicles transporting goods from or necessary for a manufacturing production unit operating on certain Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays, excluding the transport of dangerous goods, when the applicant justifies that the storage of these goods on the production site is not possible for technical reasons or economic viability. The derogation is limited to a maximum radius of 50 kilometers around the production site and must make it possible to solve the impossibility of storage described above;
8. Vehicles which ensure the pre- or post-routing of goods transported by river or rail, within a maximum radius of 150 kilometers from the intermodal river or rail terminal concerned.

For vehicles with an individual prefectural derogation on a temporary basis, empty driving is authorized without restriction during the period of validity of the order.

Art.6 Lifting of restrictions - border zones

In order to mitigate the consequences of the lack of harmonisation of traffic bans with those of neighbouring states, the Prefects of border departments have the possibility of granting derogations to the driving restrictions.

Art.8 Conditions of use of derogations

For any vehicle granted a permanent derogation or a short or long-term individual prefectural derogation, the person in charge of the vehicle must be able to prove to the officers responsible for road traffic checks that the transport operation complies with the provisions of the derogation concerned.

The authorisation must be kept on board the vehicle. For it to be valid, it must be completed by the holder prior to the vehicle's departure, indicating the date of the transport operation and the vehicle's registration number.

An authorisation may be withdrawn by the issuing authority if the holder does not observe its terms of use or has provided erroneous information in order to obtain it.