

**[UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION]**

**Interior Ministry Circular dated 8 May 2020**

For purposes of international trade, and excluding entry and exit via Iran and Iraq Border Crossings (drivers of foreign nationalities only will be allowed to exit via these border crossings on the condition that they will not be readmitted), vehicles and drivers who will travel in transit through our country, as well as vehicles and drivers who will enter and exit our country will be granted a permit if the following conditions are met.

**A. DRIVERS AND VEHICLES TRANSITING THROUGH TURKEY**

1. Within the scope of combating the coronavirus, health units will perform a medical examination on the vehicle driver and the person(s) with symptoms related to the disease in question will not be allowed passage.
2. Entering vehicles will be subject to disinfection.
3. It will be ensured that drivers wear masks at any point they may come into contact with other people during their rest breaks within the country, and that they have sufficient amounts of masks, disinfectant, and food to last for a long time.
4. For transit vehicles, customs authorities will designate routes and rest break points and it will be ensured, through the monitoring of all transiting vehicles on the “vehicle tracking system,” that they will make exit from the farthest border crossing in 36 hours, and from other border crossings in 24 hours (These periods may be extended up to 48 hours on account of road, elemental, and customs conditions).
5. Necessary health and safety measures will be implemented by the relevant Governorates/District Governorates at the rest break points to be designated by customs authorities.
6. Drivers will provide to the Ministry of Interior authorities an affidavit at the entry points to affirm that with the exception of exigent circumstances, they will not wait or make stops. With this affidavit, drivers will be informed about their liabilities and that failure to fulfil these liabilities will subject them to penalties in accordance with the Law on Public Sanitation.
7. Before the entry permit is granted, it will be ensured that vehicles will be accepted by the country to which they will exit through our country, and if these vehicles are not accepted by the country that they enter upon leaving our country, the [re]entry of such vehicles will not be approved.

**B. DRIVERS ENTERING TURKEY**

1. Within the scope of combating the coronavirus, health units will perform a medical examination on the vehicle driver, whereby a clinical and epidemiological assessment will be performed.
  - a. **In the case of observance of symptoms of the disease:**
    - i. Turkish drivers will be reported to the relevant Directorates of Health by the medical examination centers and will be taken under treatment or quarantine at designated areas. Residency and identity information of such persons will be communicated to the Directorate of Health in the province they will be present in order for necessary controls to be undertaken.
    - ii. Foreign drivers will not be allowed entry.

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**b. In the case that the disease symptoms are not observed:**

- i.** Turkish drivers will be admitted into the country to spend 14 days in quarantine at their residence; however, they will be able to travel abroad within the scope of their international commercial transportation activities without having to wait for the quarantine period to end. On the other hand, drivers who will not travel out of the country in the context of international commercial transportation will complete the 14-day quarantine period at their residence. Residency and identity information of Turkish drivers will be communicated to the Directorate of Health in the province they will be present in order for necessary controls to be undertaken.
  - ii.** Foreign drivers will be permitted to enter our country without the application of the 14-day quarantine period in so far as they affirm that they will exit our country **in the shortest amount of time possible**. Foreign drivers are also to affirm that they will go the closest health facility should they notice that they are developing any signs and symptoms of a respiratory system infection (high fever, coughing, shortness of breath, etc.) during the time they are within our country.
  - iii.** Foreign will be notified by the Ministry of Interior authorities that they are required to wear masks at any point they may come into contact with other people and during their rest breaks within the country, and to have sufficient amounts of masks, hand sanitizer, and food to last for a long time; and if deemed necessary, the State may designate their rest break points and they may travel with an escort.
- 2.** Vehicles entering our country will be subject to disinfection.
  - 3.** Necessary health and safety measures will be implemented by the relevant Governorates/District Governorates at the rest break points to be designated for Turkish and foreign drivers. The aforementioned drivers will provide to the Ministry of Interior authorities an affidavit at the entry points to affirm that with the exception of exigent circumstances, they will not wait or make stops. With this affidavit, drivers will be informed about their liabilities and that failure to fulfil these liabilities will subject them to penalties in accordance with the Law on Public Sanitation.
  - 4.** Vehicles/drivers carrying medicine, medical equipment and food material urgent for our country will be given priority for entry.

**C. RULES FOR RO-RO TRANSPORTATION**

- 1.** Within the general scope of Ro-Ro transportation, only trailer/container transport will be allowed, and no passenger transportation will be permitted. Where a driver is to be allowed aboard due to exigent circumstances deemed appropriate by the Local Port Authority, the Local Port Authority will notify the drivers that all the rules specified in this Circular that will also apply to them during entries to and exits from the country.
- 2.** Drivers will, however, be permitted aboard on the Ro-Ro voyages between: Zonguldak - Chornomorsk (Ilyichevsky), İstanbul (Haydarpaşa) - Chornomorsk (Ilyichevsky), Karasu - Chornomorsk (Ilyichevsky), Constanta - Karasu, Taşucu - Tripoli, Mersin - Haifa.
- 3.** The Local Port Authority will notify the captain of the ship and other relevant persons that it is obligatory to ensure social isolation between the drivers who were deemed suitable to board the ship according to Articles 1 and 2 and the crew, and passengers, if any.

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4. Trucks arriving to our country via Ro-Ro voyages, and their driver cabins in particular, will be disinfected prior to being delivered to their drivers.