

Driving Times and Rest Periods in Road Freight Transport

Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006

2nd version smart
tachograph also
mandatory for
vans over 2.5 t in
international traffic
and for cabotage
operations from
July 1, 2026



All information on
retrofitting and
VDO installation
partners can be
found on VDO's
information portal
my.VDO.com.

VDO

MAXIMUM DRIVING TIMES

UNINTERRUPTED DRIVING TIME

4 hours and 30 minutes

DAILY DRIVING TIME

9 hours
Maximum of 10 hours twice a week

WEEKLY DRIVING TIME

56 hours

BI-WEEKLY DRIVING TIME

90 hours

MINIMUM REST PERIODS/BREAKS

BREAKS

≥ 45 minutes without interruption, no later than after 4 hours and 30 minutes of driving

Option of split breaks

The first break ≥ 15 minutes (sometime in between) and the second break ≥ 30 minutes at the latest at the end of the 4 hours and 30 minutes of driving time

DAILY REST PERIOD

Regular

11 hours or 3 hours + 9 hours (split)

Reduced

9 hours

Rest periods must be completed within 24 hours of the start of work.

A maximum of three reduced rest periods between two weekly rest periods.

WEEKLY REST PERIOD

Regular

45 hours

Reduced

24 hours

In two consecutive weeks, either two regular weekly rest periods or at least one regular and one reduced rest period. The reduction must be compensated later.

OPTION

Two consecutive reduced weekly rest periods (only under certain conditions in international transport)

Additional information:

- / Provided that road safety is not compromised, exceptions to the rules may be made under certain conditions.
- / In exceptional circumstances, special rules apply in order to reach the company headquarters or the driver's place of residence immediately before a weekly rest period.
- In both cases, there are documentation and compensation requirements.
- / There are also special rules for the use of ferries and trains.

Please consult relevant sources for more comprehensive information:



Federal Logistics
and Mobility Office
Germany