

EU Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 - Driver's Hours Summary

Who It Applies To

- Drivers of vehicles over 3.5 tonnes (goods)
- Drivers of passenger vehicles with more than 9 seats
- Applies in EU, EEA, and Switzerland

Main Driving Time Rules

- Daily Driving: Max 9 hours (10 hours max 2x/week)
- Weekly Driving: Max 56 hours
- 2-Week Driving Limit: Max 90 hours in any 2 consecutive weeks

Rest Period Rules

- Daily Rest: 11 hours (or 9 hours max 3x/week)
- Split Daily Rest: 3 + 9 hours
- Weekly Rest: 45 hours (can reduce to 24 hours every other week)
- Compensation: Reduced rest must be compensated later

Breaks During Driving

- After 4.5 hours of driving: 45-minute break required
- Can split break: 15 minutes + 30 minutes

Working Week Rules (Directive 2002/15/EC)

- Average Weekly Working Time: Max 48 hours
- Absolute Weekly Max: 60 hours (if average is within 48)

Tachograph Requirement

- Must use digital/analog tachograph to record:
 - Driving time
 - Rest and breaks

EU Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 - Driver's Hours Summary

Distance and driver identity

Penalties for Violation

- Country-specific fines (EUR 100-5,000+)
- Possible vehicle impoundment
- Employer responsibility

Purpose of the Regulation

- Prevent fatigue-related accidents
- Ensure fair competition in the transport industry
- Improve driver working conditions

Countries Covered

- EU Member States
- EEA: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway
- Switzerland