

EXEMPTIONS AND DEROGATIONS FROM THE EU TACHOGRAPH AND DRIVER'S HOURS RULES

The following tables contains a list of vehicles that are exempt from the EU rules – some of the vehicles are exempted from the EU regardless of where the vehicle is driven while others are exempted only when driven within the State

Vehicles exempted from the EU rules on tachograph and driver's hour across the EU

- i. Vehicles used on regular passenger services where the route covered by the service does not exceed 50km.
- ii. Vehicles or combination of vehicles with a maximum permissible mass not exceeding 7.5 tonnes used for carrying materials, equipment or machinery for the driver's use in the course of his work, or for delivering goods which are produced on a craft basis, and which are used only within a 100 km radius from the base of the undertaking and on condition that driving the vehicles does not constitute the driver's main activity, and transport is not carried out for hire and reward
- iii. Vehicles with a maximum authorised speed not exceeding 40 km per hour
- iv. Vehicles used by the Defence Forces, fire services and those used for maintaining public order
- v. Vehicles, including vehicles used in the non-commercial transport of humanitarian aid, used in emergencies or rescue operations
- vi. Specialised vehicles used for medical purposes
- vii. Specialised breakdown vehicles operating within 100 km of base
- viii. Vehicle undergoing road tests for technical development, repair or maintenance purposes and new or rebuilt vehicles which have not yet been put into service
- ix. Vehicles or combination with a max permissible mass not exceeding 7.5 tonnes used for the non-commercial carriage of goods
- x. Vehicles or combinations of vehicles with a maximum permissible mass exceeding 2.5 tonnes but not exceeding 3.5 tonnes used for the transport of goods, where the transport is not carried out for hire and reward but is on an own account basis of the company or the driver, and where driving does not constitute the main activity of the person driving the vehicle
- xi. Vintage commercial vehicles used for the non-commercial carriage of passengers or goods.

Irish registered vehicles exempted from the EU rules on tachograph and driver's hours rules while operating within the State

- a. Goods vehicles not exceeding 3.5 tonnes (i.e., most vans)¹
- b. All passenger vehicles with 8 or less passenger seats (including taxis, private cars)
- c. Vehicles owned or hired without a driver by public authorities to undertake carriage by road which do not compete with private transport undertakings

¹ From 1 July 2026 vehicles, or combinations of vehicles and trailers, with a maximum permissible mass exceeding 2.5 tonnes used in international transport of cabotage operations come with scope of the EU tachograph and driver's hours rules.



- d. Vehicles used or hired, without a driver, by agricultural, horticultural, forestry, farming or fishery undertakings for carrying goods as part of their own entrepreneurial activity within a radius of up to 100 km from the base of the undertaking
- e. Agricultural tractors and forestry tractors used for agricultural or forestry activities within a radius of up to 100 km from the base of the undertaking which owns, hires or leases the vehicle
- f. Vehicles with a maximum permissible mass not exceeding 7.5 tonnes used by postal companies to deliver items as part of the universal service subject to a distance restriction. These vehicles shall be used only within a 100 km radius from the base of the undertaking, and on condition that driving the vehicles does not constitute the driver's main activity
- g. Vehicles operating on islands not exceeding 2,300 square kilometres in area not linked to the national territory by a bridge, ford or tunnel
- h. Vehicles for the carriage of goods within a 100 km of base of the undertaking propelled by natural or liquefied gas or electricity, the maximum permissible mass of which, including the trailer or semi-trailer, does not exceed 7.5 tonnes
- i. Vehicles used for driving instruction and examination with a view to obtaining a driving licence or driver CPC provided they are not being used for the commercial carriage of goods or passengers
- j. Vehicles used in connection with sewerage, flood protection, water, gas and electricity maintenance services, road maintenance and control, door to door household refuse collection and disposal, telegraph and telephone services, radio and television broadcasting and the detection of radio or television transmitters or receivers
- k. Vehicles with between 10 and 17 seats used exclusively for the non-commercial carriage of passengers
- l. Specialised vehicles transporting circus and funfair equipment
- m. Specially fitted mobile project vehicles, the primary purpose of which is use as an education facility when stationary
- n. Vehicles used for milk collection from farms and the return to farms of milk containers or milk products intended for animal feed
- o. Specialised vehicles transporting money for the purposes of mobile banking services, currency exchange or savings transactions
- p. Vehicles used for carrying animal waste or carcasses which are not intended for human consumption
- q. Vehicles used exclusively on roads inside hub facilities such as ports, interports, and railway terminals
- r. Vehicles used for the carriage of live animals from farms to local markets and vice versa or from local markets to local slaughterhouses within a radius of up to 100km
- s. vehicles or combinations of vehicles carrying construction machinery for a construction undertaking, up to a radius of 100 km from the base of the undertaking, provided that driving the vehicles does not constitute the driver's main activity
- t. vehicles used for the delivery of ready-mixed concrete.

