

14th of January 2022Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport
European Commission**Notification of derogation to driving and rest times pursuant to Art. 14(2) of Regulation 561/2006**

In response to the extraordinary crisis situation due to the new Omicron variant of Coronavirus (COVID-19), **Finland** has agreed to a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles. This relaxation is granted pursuant to Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 and the purpose of this document is to notify the Commission accordingly.

This temporary relaxation applies **from 17th of January 2022** and will run **until 15th February 2022**. It will apply to all drivers involved in **goods and passenger transport**, when operating on the territory of Finland.

Finland has made it clear that driver and road safety must not be compromised. Drivers should not be expected to drive whilst tired - employers remain responsible for the health and safety of their employees and other road users.

For the above-mentioned category of drivers, the following provisions will be temporarily relaxed as follows:

- 1) Derogation to Article 6(1) of Regulation 561/2006: The driver's maximum daily driving time in Finland is limited to 11 hours per day;
- 2) Derogation to Article 6(2) of Regulation 561/2006: The driver's maximum weekly driving time in Finland is limited to 60 hours;
- 3) Derogation to Article 6(3) of Regulation 561/2006: The driver's maximum fortnightly driving time in Finland is limited to 120 hours;
- 4) Derogation to Article 8(1) of Regulation 561/2006: Reduction of the daily rest requirements from 11 to 9 hours;
- 5) Derogation to Article 8(6) of Regulation 561/2006: Weekly rest period can be reduced to 24 hours in any consecutive weeks, with no compensation is required;
- 6) Derogation to Article 7 of Regulation 561/2006: exemption to the arrangement of shorter breaks to replace break of 45 minutes after 5 and a half hours: break of 15 minutes may be taken first;
- 7) Derogation to Article 8(8) of Regulation 561/2006: possibility for the driver to take the regular weekly rest in the vehicle, as long as it has suitable sleeping facilities for each driver and the vehicle is stationary.

The temporary relaxation of the rules described above reflects the exceptional circumstances stemming from the COVID-19 outbreak.