



ATTENTION: EU-tachograph requirement from 1 July 2026 for vehicles over 2.5 metric tons (GVW) for cross-border freight transport (small-scale transport)

From 1 July 2026, all light commercial vehicles and vehicle combinations (trailers, semi-trailers) used for cross-border freight transport with a maximum permissible weight (GVW) exceeding 2.5 metric tons, and which are used in cross-border freight transport or in cabotage operations must be equipped with a **tachograph** of the latest generation and version (**Smart Tacho 2**).

The new obligation applies to both existing and new vehicles.

The regulations of the Driving and Rest Time Regulation (561/2006) will therefore also apply to drivers of these vehicles from 1 July 2026.

ATTENTION:

For **solely domestic freight transport** (transport only within Austria) with vehicles and vehicle combinations up to 3.5 t GVW, nothing changes! As before, only a driving log is required.

If a vehicle with a GVW exceeding 2.5 t is used for both domestic and cross-border freight transport or cabotage*:

- For cross-border journeys or cabotage*, a tachograph must be installed and used, and the regulations concerning driving and rest times must be observed.
- For **solely** domestic freight transport, there is an option to use a tachograph or keep a driving log. The provisions of the AZG** and the ARG*** apply with regard to driving and rest times.

Comprehensive information about obligations related to the EU-tachograph can be found on [the website \(including materials for the practical webinar\)](#) or at www.digitalertachograph.at (Driver card, company card, data storage, driving and rest times, etc.)

We are happy to assist you with any further questions:

Specialist Group for the Freight Transport Industry/Transport Policy Department -> T
0316/601-638 or E verkehr@wkstmk.at or befoerderung.gueter@wkstmk.at

*Cabotage refers to the provision of transport services by a carrier (loading and unloading point) in a different member state than the country of origin. (e.g., loading and unloading in Germany as an Austrian carrier)

** AZG = Working Time Act *** ARG = Rest Periods Act

As of January 2026