**R.T. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

**Directorate General of Provincial Administration**

No   : 89780865-153-E.6360 09/04/2020

Subject: International Freight Transportation

FILE

Border crossings with many countries have been suspended and entry of nationals of many countries into Turkey has been prohibited due to Coronavirus (Covid­19). However, in the circular we have issued it has been noted that the principles and procedures pertaining to entry and exit of relevant persons into our country, in particular the truck drivers who are essentially required to enter and exit our country in order to ensure continuation of foreign trade, would be laid down in accordance with the opinions of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Trade.

In this mainframe, excluding entry-exit from Iran and Iraq Border Gates for international trade, (only truck drivers of foreign nationalities will be allowed to exit from the aforementioned border gates provided they will not be readmitted) vehicles and drivers to transit from our country and vehicles and drivers to enter/exit our country, will be allowed provided that they fulfil the following requirements;

1. VEHICLES AND DRIVERS TO TRANSIT FROM TURKEY
2. In the scope of the coronavirus [breakout], the health checks of the driver of the vehicle will be conducted by the health care units, and person(s) manifesting the signs of the subject disease will not be allowed to cross.

2. Vehicles that have entered will be subjected to disinfection.

3. Drivers will be required to put on masks during their stopovers at home and at every station they can be in contact with people, to keep sufficient amount of masks, sanitisers, and adequate food supplies in their vehicles.

4. Customs administrations will determine the routes of the transit vehicles as well as their stopovers, and all transit vehicles will be ensured through the “vehicle tracking system” to exit from the furthest border gate within 36 hours and from other border gates within 24 hours. (These periods may be extended by the customs administration up to 48 hours depending on the road conditions, weather conditions, congestion at the customs administration to exit from.)

5. At the stopover stations to be determined by the customs administrations necessary health and safety measures will be taken by the relevant Governorates/District Governorates.

6. Drivers to transit through Turkey will be required by the MoI units to submit a letter of commitment at the entry points certifying that unless imperative, they will not stopover or wait. They will be informed by the letter of commitment that unless they fail to comply these obligations drivers would be imposed penalties pursuant to General Public Health Law.

7. Prior to issuing authorisation to enter, it will be made sure that the vehicles will be admitted by the country they are destined to after driving through our country, and in case the vehicles are not admitted by the country they need to enter into after exiting our country, entry of these vehicles into our country will not be authorised.

**B. DRIVERS TO ENTER TURKEY**

**1.** In the scope of the coronavirus [breakout], the health checks of the driver of the vehicle will be conducted by the health care units, and person(s) manifesting the signs of the subject disease will not be allowed to cross.

**2.** Vehicles that have entered will be subjected to disinfection.

**3.** The drivers will be notified by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) that they will have to wear a mask at every location where they may be in contact with other people and at the motorway service areas inside the country, and that they have to keep sufficient number of masks, disinfectants, and foodstuffs to last on board the vehicles; and should there be a need, [certain] motorway service areas can be identified by the State, and they may travel in the company of an escort.

**a) Where the drivers are of Turkish origin:** They will be allowed to enter our country after they are medically checked by the Ministry of Health (MoH) units and signed the commitment document showing that they have accepted the 14-day home-quarantine at their residence; their ID and residential information will be notified to the Health Directorates of the relevant provinces [of habitation] for the necessary checks to be conducted.

**b)** **Where the drivers are of foreign origin:** It will be ensured that transportation procedures are carried out at the isolated area through change of drivers and/or trailer/load[freight]; and should this not be possible, they will enter the country after the completion of the 14-day quarantine period.

**c)** Customs Administrations will identify the maximum durations and the routes to be taken by the foreign drivers who will drop off load/freight in our country, considering the road and weather conditions, the workload at the Custom Administration, etc. and the relevant Governorates/District Governorates will take the necessary health and security measures on the routes of the vehicles. From the foreign drivers, the MoI units will obtain a commitment document, indicating that they will not make any stops or pauses aside from compulsory circumstances. With the said document, the driver will also be informed about his obligations as well as about the penalty that will be handed down against him pursuant to General Sanitation Code should he fail to fulfill these responsibilities.

**d)** Regarding the medicine, medical items and foodstuffs that are of urgent nature for our country, the entry of the foreign vehicles/drivers may be allowed without waiting for the 14-day quarantine period on the condition that there is a change of driver or trailer/load [freight]; and if such changes are not possible, then by having the necessary health check/examination conducted and necessary protective measures taken.

**e)** Drivers of Bulgarian, Azeri, Nakhchivani and Georgian origins will be able to enter our country without waiting for the 14-day quarantine period in the designated isolated areas after undergoing the necessary health examinations and disinfection of their vehicles. In the scope of this article, the relevant parts of part A of this Circular will apply to the drivers dropping of load/freight in our country while article 4 will apply to /in accordance with the routes they will be heading towards.

**C. DRIVERS EXITING TURKEY**

1.              Where it is understood that Turkish drivers have not completed the house quarantine period they were supposed to observe pursuant to Part B Article 3 (a) of this Circular, their exit will not be allowed.

2.               Drivers of Turkish origin will be required to bring along with themselves masks, disinfection supplies and food stuffs to last for a long period of time when they reach the [border] crossing point, in addition, drivers will be warned to communicate without being in contact with anyone and by respecting social distancing in their countries of destination and during the travel, and to return without delay after they unload their cargo.

3.               During the exit of foreign drivers, it will be checked whether they abided by the rules specified in the Circular, where it is understood that they have not respected the rules, penal proceedings will be carried out by the relevant units of the Ministry of Interior and their re-entry into the country will be denied.

**D. RULES TO BE APPLIED IN RO­RO TRAVELS**

1.                Only trailer/container transport will be conducted within the scope of Ro-Ro transport, and no passenger or complete vehicle transport will be allowed. Where a driver is to be admitted due to mandatory conditions deemed acceptable by the Local Port Authority, the Local Port Authority will notify the drivers that all rules specified in this Circular will also be applied to them during entries and exits.

2.                 The Local Port Authority will notify the captain of the ship and other relevant persons that it is imperative to ensure social distancing between the drivers who were deemed suitable to board the ship according to Article 1, and the ship crew and passengers, if any.

3.                 The trucks arriving to our country by Ro-Ro travels, most primarily its driver cabins, will be disinfected, before being delivered to its drivers.

Please be informed of the above measures and take the necessary action so that the required decisions will be taken by the Provincial/District Governors and Local Authorities at Border Crossing Points in cooperation with all public institutions and bodies assigned at border crossing point, and within the framework of the necessary provisions of other relevant legislation, work will be planned rapidly, and no interruptions will occur implementation.

Minister

Süleyman SOYLU

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