

The following is the text of a letter sent by DVSA/DfT on 31 January or 1 February to companies who have applied for ECMT permits. It outlines the timing of allocations.

Subject: Developments on haulage to the EU

Thank you for applying for a European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) permit.

We plan to inform you of the outcome of your application via email in the week commencing 4 February. While we continue to process your applications, we wanted to provide an update on developments in the EU.

Developments about UK hauliers' access to the EU

The Government's priority continues to be to secure a deal which maintains the current, liberalised access arrangements.

However, as a responsible Government we continue to prepare for all possible scenarios.

EU commission progress

The European Commission has [published proposals](#) that would allow UK hauliers to continue carrying goods into the EU until the end of 2019 if there is no deal, without the need for an ECMT permit. These will need to be agreed by the European Council and European Parliament, and are being considered by both bodies urgently.

The proposals cover 'point to point' journeys (for example UK-France) and transit within the EU (for example UK-Spain via France). Discussions within the European Council and Parliament are underway as to whether to include rights to do business within another Member State ('cabotage' – for example Paris-Bordeaux) and between different Member States ('cross-trade') to ensure UK hauliers can continue operating across the EU just as they do now until December 2019, without the need for any new permits. The Commission proposals require the UK to have granted EU hauliers reciprocal market access to the UK if they are to have effect.

The UK Government welcomes the proposal as a positive step forward for UK hauliers. In response, the Government intends to reciprocate, offering, as a starting point, the same market access rights to EU hauliers as they have today. The UK's offer to the EU will, however, be based on reciprocity and the UK will reserve the right, for example, to suspend cabotage for EU hauliers in the event that such provisions are not maintained for UK hauliers.

Progress on arrangements with EU Member States

In addition to the European Commission's proposal, the French Government has recently proposed offering continued access to UK hauliers. While details of the proposal are still being confirmed, this is clearly a very welcome development. This would only come into effect in the event of no-deal and in the absence of measures at EU level – so if the Commission's proposals were not agreed.

The UK Government also continues to progress work on bilateral arrangements with individual EU Member States that would give access to UK hauliers even if the Commission proposals were not agreed. Our intention is to ensure the UK is as ready as possible for all exit scenarios.

What this means for your ECMT permit application

Given these developments, the Government is confident that you shouldn't need an ECMT permit to continue doing a range of business in all or much of the EU, even in the event of no deal. But it is important to continue to prepare for all possible scenarios and therefore your application for a permit will still be processed.

We'll inform you of the outcome of your application for an ECMT permit via email in the week commencing 4 February, but we will not issue any permits, nor take payment for them until we know more about the outcomes of the other processes outlined above.

Important note: Please be aware that only ECMT permits issued by the DVSA International Road Haulage Permits Office are valid for use by UK hauliers. ECMT permits purchased elsewhere are not valid and you may be fined in other countries if you try to use them.

Further steps you need to take

Trailer registration

Regardless of the outcome of EU negotiations, there are [new requirements](#) for the separate registration of commercial trailers from 28 March 2019. Trailers with a gross weight over 750kg used for international haulage to, or through, foreign countries who have ratified the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (all EU Member States, excluding Ireland, Spain, Malta and Cyprus) must be registered with the DVLA and display their own registration plate. More information on how to register your trailers will be communicated soon on gov.uk/euexitdriving.

IDPs and Green Cards

You may also need an International Driving Permit (IDP) and a Motor Insurance Green Card to continue to drive in the EU in the event of no-deal.

IDPs will be available from the Post Office from 1st February for £5.50. To obtain a Motor Insurance Green Card, contact your vehicle insurer.

Get more information and register for updates at [gov.uk/euexitdriving](https://www.gov.uk/euexitdriving).