Hungary (March 18, 2020)

Hungary has closed its internal and external borders from passenger transport with effect from 00:00 17th of March. Hungarian citizens and close relatives travelling with them (including those not resident in Hungary) will still be allowed to enter the country.

The current situation at the border crossing points:
The practice at Hungarian BCPs seemingly don’t follow the rules published and the related statement of the Operational Group (dedicated government COVID-19 body).

According to the government decree the crossing of Hungarian state borders by international road transport operators is planned to be organised as follows:
- Goods transports arriving and departing from Hungarian destinations, as well as those currently in transit, are allowed to cross the state border and continue the journey without restrictions, but only through the designated border points and transit routes marked with blue.

This is a map operated by the police, but unfortunately it is not updated and gives false information, however it can be used to demonstrate the blue transit routes – designated for international freight traffic: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1TTwJysYGATqZNRI3NuP666_tYmxVF1JO&ll=47.0879470006914%2C19.375606900877187&z=7
Stops are permitted only at designated rest areas/fuel stations. Transport operators must have police stamps. Only the driver is permitted in the cabin; no passengers. Drivers should cross the territory as quickly and efficiently as possible, without the violation of any traffic rules. Police procedures are in place at the points of exit.

**In reality** the traffic at the designated border crossing points is slow, with long queues. The authorities at different border crossing points apply different procedures, and the practice is changing rapidly: sometimes foreign drivers are allowed to enter.

**According to the government decree** any vehicle with a non-Hungarian driver, arriving from the territory of Italy and travelling to a destination in Hungary, will only be able to access the borders of Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia and Austria via one of the designated humanitarian corridors. The vehicle must be equipped with sufficient protective equipment (gloves and masks) and disinfectant. Personal contact with the driver is only permitted with the appropriate protective equipment. Disposable gloves should be changed after each use. Upon delivery of the transport documents there should be no contact between the driver and the recipient. The driver should not participate in the loading; it is recommended that he remains in the cabin. After loading, the driver must ensure the cargo is securely placed. Agents must deal with one vehicle at a time and the driver must regularly disinfect the dashboard and any equipment that has been touched.

**In reality vehicles with foreign drivers arriving from the territories of Italy (even if only transited through Italy), China, South Korea, Iran and Israel will NOT be permitted to enter (according to the actual practice!); Hungarian nationals can enter, but they are obliged to spend 14 days in official home quarantine.**

Slovenia has no operational border crossing point with Hungary for international freight traffic in transit through Slovenia. Destination traffic is allowed at Tornyiszentmiklós - Pince (M70) for Hungarian nationals, there is no information on foreign nationals.


**In order to avoid confusion the Operational Group** (dedicated government COVID-19 body) issued a detailed flowchart to create a uniform practice at all designated border crossing points (See the translated version of the flowchart below).

However at the moment the information is being distributed and it will probably take some time to be respected.

**Source:** MKFE
Goods transport flowchart – Hungarian border crossing points

Coming from a country listed in art 3 (1) of gov. decree nr. 41/2020? (Italy – even if only transited through Italy – China, South Korea, Iran and Israel)

- NO
  - Can enter, if it is in a condition suitable for driving

- YES
  - Hungarian location (business location) is your destination?
    - NO
      - Can enter (in transit), if it is in a condition suitable for driving*
    - YES
      - Can enter if it is in a condition suitable for driving, provided that:
        - Hungarian citizens can enter, but they are obliged to spend 14 days in official home quarantine
        - Foreign citizens have to spend 14 days in official quarantine at the location of the Hungarian business**

If the Hungarian citizen presents symptoms of infection the National Ambulance Service will transport that person to an official quarantine

If the foreign citizen presents symptoms of infection cannot enter to Hungary

*the vehicle can only use the designated humanitarian corridor, stops are permitted only at designated rest areas/fuel stations. At the point of entry the driver will be informed about the shortest route to reach the destination. Only the driver is permitted in the cabin; no passengers.

** the driver during the 14 days of official home quarantine can undertake another commission, if it is in a condition suitable for driving, does not presents symptoms of infection, and its employer/site manager considers it suitable. Provided that the above mentioned conditions are fulfilled the driver can ONLY leave the quarantine if the competent epidemiological authority is informed (district office who issued the decision), and the place of loading is accessed through the humanitarian corridor, with stops only at the designated rest areas/fuel stations.

As a general rule the transportation of goods has to be assured!