



REGIONAL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF CROSS BORDER ROAD TRANSPORT AT DESIGNATED POINTS OF ENTRY AND COVID-19 CHECKPOINTS

I. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of these Regional Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) is to facilitate the safe transportation of all passengers, goods and services, and to promote business continuity and resumption of cross borders activities across the region while preventing the spread of the COVID-19 across the SADC region.

II. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The SOPs provide guidance on specific measures which will be implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through cross-border road transport.

The SOPs will assist Member States to implement the Corridor Trip Monitoring System (CTMS), which is under development, and other systems as may be agreed by Member States, for management of the registration of cross border trips, recording, monitoring and surveillance of driver wellness including medical test results for specified communicable diseases such as COVID-19, tracking of vehicles, loads and drivers, contact tracing, queue management at ports, border posts and other facilities and statistical analysis and reporting.

The model SOP covers the requirements that drivers and crews must meet at each stage or phase of a cross border trip:

- (i) Requirements before Departure;

- (ii) Entering Member States Territory;
- (iii) Transit (in transit between countries and destinations);
- (iv) On arrival at destination;
- (v) Management of Crew Members while in Country of destination;
- (vi) On departure; and
- (vii) Key considerations: Testing frequency, quarantine site or truck stop point, catering and sanitation.

III. REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

a. Requirements before Departure

In order to ensure safety of the public and crew members, the Transport operator should ensure the following:

- i) All drivers and crew shall be tested for COVID19 before the commencement of each cross-border trip;
- ii) Only drivers and crew who test negative for COVID 19 will be allowed to undertake a cross border trip;
- iii) The truck owner/transport operator shall ensure compliance to this requirement and allow only drivers with negative tests to engage in cross border transportation;
- iv) Member States shall facilitate at their own cost, testing of drivers and crew members at designated testing points and expedite tests results report to ease movements of goods;
- v) All crew members should be in possession of a valid certificate of COVID-19 issued by the State Party before starting their cross-border trip and leaving the country of departure;
- vi) The transport operator shall provide alcohol-based sanitizers and sufficient quantities of water and soap, and masks for drivers and crews to sanitize and protect themselves; and
- vii) At the border post, while exiting the country of departure, crew members should be cleared by health official after COVID-19 symptoms screening.

b. General requirement while entering Member States Borders (Transit or destination)

- i) Health Official will fill the COVID-19 control forms and clear crew members after symptom and temperature screening using a thermal gun or thermal scanners on all persons aboard a vehicle;
- ii) All person on board a vehicle should be cleared and given a duplicate to carry with them until they complete the trip;
- iii) Health Official will provide drivers with the Member State Trip/Log Sheet with designated stop points/truck stops which drivers shall complete along the route and drop off at the point of exit or quarantine facility;
- iv) Member States shall provide the map / list of truck stops along corridors/routes including the GPS coordinates of the truck stops/roadside stations/designated stops along the routes/corridor;
- v) Health Officers will provide drivers with information, education and communication materials on infection prevention and control of COVID-19, including the Toll-free numbers for more information on COVID 19 and related support services;
- vi) COVID-19 Control Protocol for crew members should be presented to immigration, customs and security officer before leaving the point of entry and/or at any check point within the country of transit or destination;
- vii) All vehicles where a driver or crew member tests positive for COVID-19 or is assessed to have symptoms for COVID-19, must be disinfected by health officers at cost of the operator;
- viii) All Crew Members shall observe infection prevention control measures and wear face masks while in transit;
- ix) Trucks must stop only at designated truck stops as stated on the list / map of truck stops provided by the authorities while entering the country;
- x) In case of emergency of breakdown, the truck driver must find a safe spot away from local community and inform the nearest police station or call the toll-free number where applicable; and
- xi) Truck Drivers/co-drivers are prohibited from picking up hitch-hikers at any point on their journey.

c. Arrival at the Country of destination

- i) Member States shall develop specific protocol for offloading trucks to ensure infection prevention and control measures are adhered to;
- ii) Member States shall designate or provide specific location with adequate and suitable health services, accommodation, cooked meals, sanitation and security (or quarantine facility) to accommodate drivers while in the country;
- iii) Crew Members must observe infection prevention and control measures, while are off-loading or loading cargo;
- iv) Crew Members must wear new set of gloves and masks during off-loading of cargo;
- v) Ground staff off-loading cargo must wear gloves and masks;
- vi) When loading cargo onto trucks, drivers and ground staff must adhere to infection prevention measures, including wearing protective clothing (where available) and masks; and
- vii) In case protective clothes are not available, disinfection of ground staff loading or offloading trucks should be considered.

d. Management of Crew Members while in Country of destination

- i) Member States shall designate or provide specific place with adequate and suitable health services, accommodation, cooked meals, sanitation and security for drivers and crew members while in the country, at operators' cost;
- ii) Such areas or quarantine facility must ensure that drivers are safe and observe infection prevention and control measures;
- iii) During their stay in the country of destination, crew members must comply with public health measures including hand sanitizers, frequent washing of hands, wearing of masks and minimize contact with local community; and
- iv) Upon arrival in the country of destination, Health workers must cross check whether or not the driver complied to the trip itinerary prescribed at the point of entry to rule out any contacts with local community as uploaded onto the electronic platform.

e. On Departure

- i) Drivers with a documented negative result for COVID-19 dated 0 – 14 days old must be allowed to return to the country of origin without retesting unless they display signs or symptoms of COVID 19;
- ii) A new trip log sheet must be delivered to the driver to ensure compliance while travelling; and
- iii) While exiting the country, Officials shall verify the following: a valid negative result for COVID 19, and a dully completed log sheet.

f. At Check point

- i) Crew Members shall present the COVID-19 Control Protocol for Vehicle Drivers' Form at all check points along the journey;
- ii) Drivers shall present their Trip Log Sheet at every check point along the journey; and
- iii) Crew Members must comply with the rules and regulations as established by authority at every check point.

g. Key considerations: Testing frequency, quarantine site or truck stops, catering and sanitation

Testing of crew members

- i) Member States shall use real time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or any other molecular test and mutually recognise the test results;
- ii) Crew Members shall test for COVID-19, at either the one stop health post or any other designated testing facility in the country of departure;
- iii) Such test results shall be valid for 14 days;
- iv) In case crew members enter another Member State's territory after the period of validity, a re-test shall apply; and
- v) Member States may opt to perform random testing of drivers and crew members providing a negative test for quality assurance.

Truck stops, catering and sanitation

- i) Member States shall provide all truck drivers information in relation with the truck stops they can use on the designated routes on the corridors and services available in such locations; and
- ii) Catering, sanitation and fuel services shall be availed at specific truck stops/roadside stations along the routes/corridors that comply to public health measures as prescribed by national authorities.