

Ordinance
on the protection against risks of infection
with SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus
posed by persons entering the country following the determination of an epidemic
situation of national significance
by the German Bundestag
(Coronavirus Entry Ordinance)

- Overview of the regulations (and exemptions) for the transport and forwarding sector -
Entry into force on 1 August 2021

On 30 July 2021, the Federal Government adopted a new entry ordinance. The emergence of new virus strains with alarming properties continues to require measures to avoid their uncontrolled spread from abroad. The Ordinance will enter into force on 1 August 2021.

The Ordinance builds on the Coronavirus Entry Ordinance of 12 May 2021 with a few adjustments and expands its scope to include in particular two essential new rules:

- As of 1 August 2021 there will be only two risk area categories: High-risk areas and areas of variant of concern. The Robert Koch Institute will continue to publish on its website every Friday the areas that have been categorized (www.rki.de/risikogebiete).
- Persons entering Germany must, as a general rule, present a negative test result or proof of vaccination or recovery (general obligation to furnish proof), irrespective of whether they are entering from a risk area or not. However, this does not apply to transport workers. Persons entering Germany from a region that has been classified as an area of variant of concern, even with proof of vaccination or recovery, must present a negative test result.

The new Ordinance provides for a number of facilitations for the transport industry.

Transport workers will be excluded from the obligation to furnish proof as well as from the obligation to register/self-isolate or remain in quarantine, unless they are entering from an area of variant of concern.

Rules for transport workers when entering Germany from an area of variant of concern

Only when entering from an area of variant of concern, transport workers are subject to the following rules:

- Obligation to furnish proof: When entering Germany from an area of variant of concern, transport workers are also subject to the general obligation to furnish proof. Everybody without exception must present a negative test result when entering Germany, including those who have been vaccinated or recovered (antigen test 24 hours / PCR test 72 hours prior to entry). Proof of vaccination or recovery will not be accepted when entering from an area of variant of concern (section 5 Obligation to furnish proof).

- Obligation to register/self-isolate: Transport workers who spent more than 72 hours in a region categorized as area of variant of concern during the ten days prior to their entry into Germany and are planning to stay on German territory for more than 72 hours are subject to the obligation to register and self-isolate. Departure from Germany is possible at all times (section 6 (1) sentence 4). Persons who are entering the Federal Republic of Germany only for transit purpose and plan to leave Germany by the quickest route (section 6 (1) No.2) are exempt from this obligation.

The **ban on transport operations from virus variant areas** already included in the Coronavirus Entry Ordinance of 12 May 2021 (section 10) is still applicable. Transport operators are still obliged to generally refrain from carrying out transport operations to Germany from virus variant areas. Exceptions from this rule are granted in accordance with section 10 (2) for instance for pure mail and cargo deliveries, empty runs as well as the repatriation of aircraft, ships and crews.