

Road Permits Explained & Bilateral Roads Permits Digitalization



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2025 11 27, Kyiv



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Julius is an executive with over 20 years of experience, successfully working across both the public and private sectors in Lithuania and internationally

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Served as the Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of Lithuania (2021–2024), being responsible for roads, logistics, and aviation

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Introduction

To different road permit systems

4 different agreement systems

Different agreement systems on road transport permits

TIR convention

EU Community Licence

CEMT system

Bilateral Agreements

TIR Convention

- **Over 70 countries** are members of the IRU convention. The International Road Transport Union (IRU) manages the TIR system globally.
- The TIR Convention facilitates **the international carriage of goods among customs offices in different countries.**
- The **vehicle remains sealed** (as a rule) throughout the TIR transport and, thus, goods are generally not inspected at border crossings.



EU Community Licence

- All road transport companies established in the EU that want to carry out commercial transport across borders must have the EU Community Licence.
- The EU Community Licences are issued by **the national authorities of the EU Member States** (usually valid for 5 years).
- Operators must meet certain criteria (financial, reputational, etc.) before they can be granted the licence.
- Even with the EU Community Licence, **certain restrictions still apply, especially regarding cabotage operations.**



CEMT licences

- The **Multilateral Quota is a system** of transport licences for pan-European (43 countries) road haulage. [Distribution of licences by countries](#).
- There are two types of licences: (1) **annual** and (2) **short-term** (rarely used).
- Every country has a base quota (LT – 171, UA – 379 licences), and **additional licence multipliers are offered for EURO V (×10) and EURO VI (×14) trucks** (for example, in the case of LT, the number of licences can be increased to 2114 licences).
- **CEMT annual licence enables transport operators to undertake an unlimited number of multilateral freight operations** with one licence in countries participating in the system.
- The CEMT system is managed by the International Transport Forum (ITF).



Bilateral agreements and permits

- Usually, such agreements are signed by the governments of the two countries.
- The purpose of these agreements **is to facilitate cross-border road transport by defining rules on permits, quotas, and other conditions** (LT has more than 30 agreements)
- General definition - **bilateral road permits** are official documents that authorize the movement of goods by road transport between two countries, based on a bilateral agreement between them.
- Bilaterally agreed road transport permits usually **can be three different types**:
 - **Bilateral permits;**
 - **Transit permits;**
 - **The 3ed country permits.**



Why road agreements are needed?

- Fair competition (protect local markets from unfair advantage, etc.);
- Ensure compliance with legal, safety, environmental standards;
- Customs and taxation control;
- Prevent illegal or sanctioned transport / goods;
- Regulate cross-border traffic.

Road transport permits types and permit-free regimes

Bilateral permits

- The most common type of permit that **allows cargo transport operations between two countries.**
- A bilateral permit allows a carrier to enter the destination country and return.
- **Example:** Georgia and Lithuania agree on a quota of bilateral permits. Lithuania provides blank permits to the Georgian authorities, who then issue them to Georgian carriers. With such a permit, a Georgian carrier may load cargo in Georgia and transport it to Lithuania for unloading (and vice versa). In this case, empty Georgian registration trucks are allowed to enter Lithuania from any other country in order to load cargo.



Transit permits

- Transit permits allow a commercial vehicle **to pass through the territory of a contracting party while traveling with or without cargo.**
- Transit permits **do not allow commercial operations within the transit country** (such as loading or unloading goods); they only permit passing through its territory.
- **Example:** Lithuania issues a transit permit to Georgia. Then Georgian carrier has the right to load cargo in Georgia, pass it through Lithuanian territory, and deliver cargo to Latvia or Poland (and vice versa).



Third country permits

- Allows the transport of goods between **a specific point located within the territory of one contracting country and a specific point located within the territory of a third country**, as well as vice versa.
- **Example:** Lithuania issues a third-country permit to Ukraine. A Ukrainian carrier has the right to load cargo in Moldova (a “third country”) and deliver and unload it in Lithuania, and vice versa.






Road permits-free regime



- A permit-free regime for international road transport can be established by a bilateral agreement between two countries;
- A permit-free regime for international road transport can be established by an agreement between the EU and an individual third country;
- Usually, there are certain conditions or limitations for implementing a permit-free regime. For example, it may apply only to bilateral operations.

Road permits-free regime



European Union	Ukraine	Moldova
		

- In the summer of 2022, the European Union signed agreements with Ukraine and Moldova on the carriage of freight by road.
- Ukrainian, Moldovan and the EU hauliers may temporarily conduct freight operations without the need for special permits: (1) bilateral operations; (2) transit operations to the 3rd countries; (3) unladen journeys); But not allowed third country operations, need a permit!
- The agreements were extended several times, and now with Ukraine and Moldova these agreements are valid until the 31st of March, 2027 with the possibility to be extended further.

Customs' role in permits



- Customs may perform 100% checks on road permit usage at border crossing points (relevant for countries with border control) and have real-time access to permit usage data (at all entry and exits points);
- In cases where there is no border control, or only limited border control (such as in the Schengen area), Customs may use their resources to check permit usage during road inspections;
- Customs have the know-how and technology to detect fake documents, including counterfeit permits (in LT – criminal responsibility);
- For effective permit control, it is necessary to enable Customs to carry out full permit usage control and enforcement as well as to ensure strong cooperation with road inspection authorities

Road permits digitalization

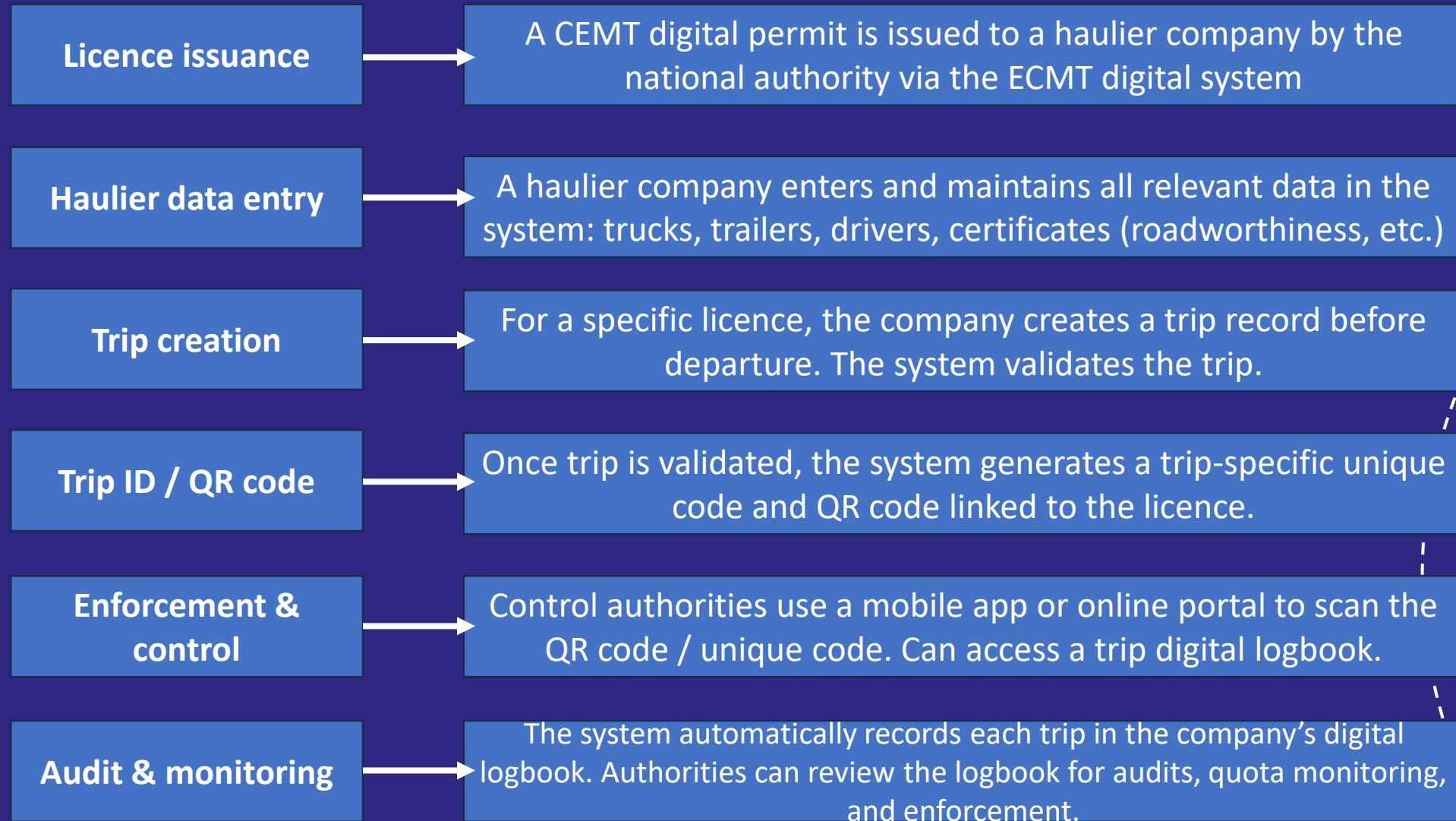
Benefits of road transport permits digitalization?

- High costs and difficulties related to physically exchanging, storing, and distributing the permits;
- Limited tracking capabilities, making it difficult for issuing authorities to monitor actual usage;
- Difficulties in controlling paper permits by transport authorities and limited capabilities in using the ITS control option;
- Delays in permits' delivery, particularly when additional permits are urgently required;
- Operational problems for hauliers in cases of lost, damaged, or stolen permits;
- Risk of high penalties caused by human errors, such as mistyped.

Digitalization of CEMT licence system

- From the 1st of January 2026, CEMT permits will be fully digital (the test system is already available);
- From the 1st of November 2026, the system was opened for control authorities;
- National authorities responsible for issuing CEMT licences will be able to create accounts for control authorities (customs, transport authorities, police, etc.).

Digitalization of CEMT licence system: logic



Digitalization of CEMT licence system

The dashboard displays the following license counts:

- Annual licences:** 4
- Short-term licences:** 0
- Available licences:** 4 (Annual), 0 (Short-term)
- Licences In Use:** 0 (Annual), 0 (Short-term)
- Cancelled licences:** 0 (Annual), 0 (Short-term)
- Expired licences:** 0 (Annual), 0 (Short-term)
- Replaced licences:** 0 (Annual), 0 (Short-term)

Year	Code	Number	Status	Type	Vehicle Category	Restrictions	Issued at	Valid From	Valid To
2025	LT	01098	Available	Annual	Euro VI	A,GR,RUS	28/08/2025	01/01/2025	31/12/2025
2025	LT	01099	Available	Annual	Euro VI		28/08/2025	01/01/2025	31/12/2025
2025	LT	02044	Available	Annual	Euro V	A,GR	28/08/2025	01/01/2025	31/12/2025
2025	LT	02045	Available	Annual	Euro V	A,GR,RUS	28/08/2025	01/01/2025	31/12/2025

Logbook view for Licence Annual: LT01098 - Available 01/01/2025-31/12/2025. The view shows no records.

Details for license 01098:

- Departure (A):** Date: 26/09/2025, Place: Kaunas, Country: LT, Gross Weight: 8,000 tonnes, Number of km: 4000, Truck Reg Nr: DBE 342 LT.
- Arrival (B):** Date: 29/09/2025, Place: chinou, Country: MD, Gross Weight: 6,000 tonnes, Truck Reg Nr: DBE 342 LT.

Confirmation! The trip has been activated! Make sure that the driver has updated logbook printed form!

Digitalization of CEMT licence system

Licence Annual LT01098 - In Use 01/01/2025-31/12/2025

INFO LOGBOOK HISTORY

In Use

Country *	Lithuania				
Code *	LT	Number *	01098	Year *	2025
Type *	Annual	Category *	Euro VI	Is Reserve? *	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Issued at *	28/08/2025	Valid From *	01/01/2025	Valid To *	31/12/2025
Haulier *	UAB "SMJ"				
Restrictions	Austria, Greece, Italy, Russian Federation,				

[View licence](#) [View last logbook printed document](#)

ECMT Unique Code:0868836452025
ECMT Digital Licence 2025 **International Transport Forum**

LT01098
Annual
Valid From: 01-Jan-2025
Valid To: 31-Dec-2025
Issued At: 28-Aug-2025
Vehicle Category: Euro VI
Restrictions: A,GR,I,RUS
Issued By:

Issued For:
UAB "SMJ"
Gedimino 1, Vilnius, Lithuania

28-Aug-2025 20:28:38



https://ecdi-test.lif-occd.org/#L_B/0868836452025



ECMT Unique Code:2111883092025
ECMT Digital Licence 2025 **International Transport Forum**

LT01098
Annual
Valid From: 01-Jan-2025
Valid To: 31-Dec-2025
Issued At: 28-Aug-2025
Vehicle Category: Euro VI
Restrictions: A,GR,I,RUS
Issued By:

Issued For:
UAB "SMJ"

26-Sep-2025 09:40:07

#1	Vilnius LT	DRE 342 LT	1500 km	18-Sep-2025
L	Chokėnai MD		1700 km	24-Sep-2025
#2	Kaunas LT	DRE 342 LT	4000 km	26-Sep-2025
L	Chokėnai MD			29-Sep-2025

https://ecdi-test.lif-occd.org/#L_B/2111883092025



Turkey e-PERMIT system for bilateral permits

- Turkey E-PERMIT system based on U-NET Transport automation system. The carrier must register on the U-NET system.
- The national transport authority – the Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure, via the U-Net / e-Permit portal allocates the national quota among licensed road transport companies.
- In the application, a haulier can select the e-permit, route, travel dates, trucks, drivers, etc.
- The portal automatically checks the available quota for each permit and permit type. If the quota is exhausted, the system either rejects the digital request or places it in a queue, depending on the bilateral arrangements.
- Once approved, the system issues an electronic permit with a serial number/QR code and validity period.
- At the border crossing point, the carrier presents the e-Permit on mobile **to Customs for verification. Customs scan/enter the permit ID and check in real time whether the permit is valid and unused for that journey** (on all entry and exit points).
- The 1st e-Permit operation between Turkey and **Uzbekistan took place in November 2022. Azerbaiian** has also completed integration into the e-Permit system

Turkey e-PERMIT system for bilateral permits



Republic of Türkiye
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

İ.T.C.
ULAŞTIRMA VE ALTYAPI BAKANLIĞI

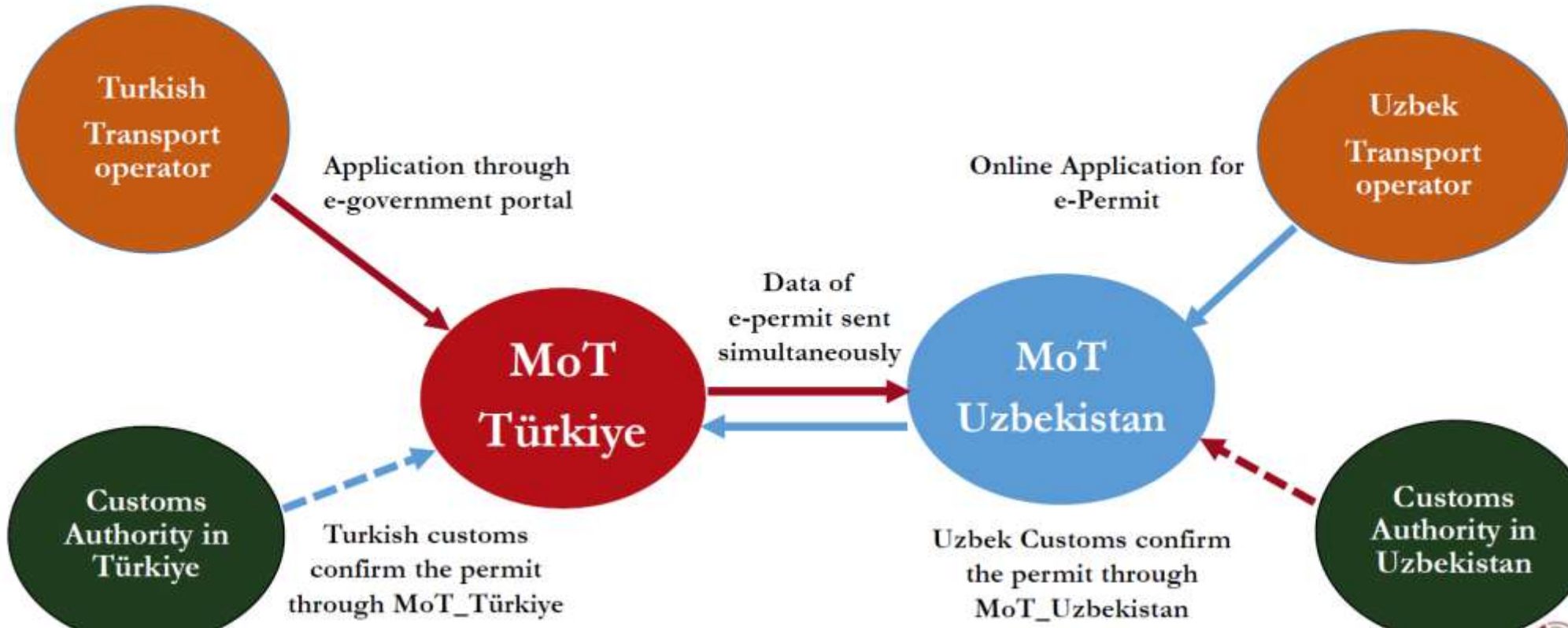
Electronic Permit
Elektronik Geçiş Belgesi



TR-UZ-2022-1-1

1	PERMIT ISSUED BY GEÇİŞ BELGESİNİ DÜZENLEYEN ÜLKE	Türkiye Türkiye
2	PERMIT ISSUED FOR GEÇİŞ BELGESİNİN DÜZENLENDİĞİ ÜLKE	Uzbekistan Özbekistan
3	PERMIT SERIAL NUMBER GEÇİŞ BELGESİ SERİ NUMARASI	TR-UZ-2022-1-1
4	PERMIT PREPARED ON BELGE DÜZENLENME TARİHİ	22/09/2022
5	YEAR OF THE PERMIT BELGE YILI	2022
6	PERMIT VALID UNTIL BELGE GEÇERLİLİK TARİHİ	30/01/2023
7	TYPE OF THE PERMIT BELGE TÜRÜ	BILITERAL İKİLİ
8	PLATE NUMBER(S) PLAKA(LAR)	33DTG98
9	NAME OF THE COMPANY FİRMA İSMİ	METER ULUS. TAŞ. SAN. VE TIC. LTD. ŞTİ
10	DEPARTURE COUNTRY HAREKET ÜLKESİ	Türkiye Türkiye
11	ARRIVAL COUNTRY VARIŞ ÜLKESİ	Uzbekistan Özbekistan
11	OTHER INFORMATION/RESTRICTIONS DİĞER BİLGİLER/KISITLAMALAR	

Turkey e-PERMIT system for bilateral permits



What's next?

The future of permit systems

- **Gradual digitalization:** All permit and licence systems will progressively move to full digitalization.
- **Foundation:** The digitalization process will primarily build on existing national and international digital systems, such as the CEMT framework.
- **Efficient Control:** ITS will be used to implement more effective monitoring of permit usage.
- **Automated Enforcement:** Control and enforcement will be increasingly automated through ITS technologies, AI solutions, cameras, and real-time data sharing between different systems.
- **Interoperability:** Different systems will be integrated to ensure seamless data exchange and coordination (eCMR, insurance documents, etc).

Thank you for your attention!



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