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Working time

[Directive 2002/15/EC](#) lays down minimum requirements with regard to the organization of the working time for all persons performing mobile road transport activities, including self-employed drivers, in order to improve road safety, health and safety of drivers, and prevent distortion of competition. It also supplements the provisions of [Regulation \(EC\) 561/2006](#) which lays down common rules on drivers' [driving time and rest periods](#).

More particularly, it contains the following general provisions:

- Definitions of working time, periods of availability, place of work, mobile worker, self-employed driver, week, night time and night work;
- Maximum working week: 48 hours (this can be extended to 60 hours provided an average of 48 hours per week is not exceeded in any 4 month period);
- Breaks: not more than 6 hours should be worked consecutively without a break (at least 30 min when 6 to 9 hours are worked per day);
- Rest time: the provisions of Regulation (EC) 561/2006 are maintained;
- Night work: not more than 10 hours worked in any 24-hour period when a night shift is performed.

The rules are applicable to all mobile workers from 23 March 2005, while self-employed drivers were temporary excluded until 23 March 2009. A [proposal for a Directive](#) by the Commission to make this exclusion permanent while tackling the problem of false self-employed drivers was rejected by the European Parliament. Working time rules are thus applicable to all drivers, including self-employed ones, as of 23 March 2009.



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Vice-President
Commissioner
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Director-General
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Organisation chart



Agencies

- EMSA
- EASA
- ERA
- EACI
- TEN-TEA



Related documents

▶ Legislation

[Directive 2002/15/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2002 on the organisation of the working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities](#)

▶ Proposal to modify the Working Time Directive

[Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2002/15/EC on the organisation of the working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities](#)

[\[COM/\(2008\)650\]](#)

[Road transport - new working time directive to cover false self-employed drivers \[IP/08/1507, 15/10/2008\]](#) 

[Impact assessment \[SEC\(2008\)2632\]](#)

[Summary Impact assessment \[SEC\(2008\)2631\]](#)

► **Other references**

[Biennial report on the implementation of the social legislation related to road transport](#)  [375 KB]

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