



**Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers
Official Translation Department**

Unified Law of International Land Transport between GCC States

Royal Decree No. M/220
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Translation of Saudi Laws

NOTES:

1. This translation is provided for guidance. The governing text is the Arabic text.
2. The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:
 - Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
 - Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
 - Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
 - The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them, and who) refer to a natural and legal person.



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Unified Law of International Land Transport between GCC States

Upon perusal of the GCC Charter and the GCC Unified Economic Agreement, and based on the recommendation of GCC ministers of transport and communications at their 21st meeting held in Kuwait on November 29, 2018;

Stemming from the keenness of their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of GCC States to strengthen and develop economic relations and cooperation between GCC States, and to promote the regulation of international land transport operations between GCC States and raise the level of road safety;

The GCC Supreme Council, in its 43rd session held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 15/5/1444 H (December 9, 2022) approved the Unified Law of International Land Transport between GCC States, which reads as follows:

Article 1: Definitions

In the application of the provisions of this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

1. **GCC:** Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
2. **GCC States:** Countries of the GCC.
3. **Supreme Council:** Supreme Council of the GCC.
4. **State:** Member state of the GCC.
5. **Law:** Unified Law of International Land Transport between GCC States.
6. **Regulations:** Implementing Regulations of this Law.
7. **Ministerial Committee:** Committee of ministers in charge of transport and communications in the GCC States.
8. **Competent Authority:** The ministry or agency in charge of implementing the provisions of this Law in the State.
9. **Head of Competent Authority:** The minister or head of the Competent Authority.
10. **International Land Transport:** The activity of transporting passengers or goods, or both, on land roads between GCC States for a fee or on a commercial basis.
11. **Vehicle:** Any vehicle (bus, car, single-unit truck, truck with trailer, or truck with semi-trailer, or any other combination) registered or licensed in any GCC State.
12. **State of Registration:** The State where the vehicle is registered.
13. **Carrier:** A natural or legal person licensed by the competent authority to engage in international land transport.
14. **Driver:** A natural person driving the vehicle.
15. **Passenger:** A natural person, other than the driver, on board a vehicle pursuant to an agreement with the carrier for the purpose of transport.
16. **Goods:** Any materials, equipment, commodities, animals, or the like.
17. **Operating Card:** A document issued by the competent authority whereby the vehicle is licensed to operate in international land transport.
18. **Permit:** A permit issued by the competent authority whereby an empty vehicle is allowed to enter the state for the purpose of transport from specific points within the state to the state of registration, or to another state.
19. **Transport Document:** A document issued by a carrier to a natural or legal person, in his capacity as a sender or owner of goods or an authorized representative thereof, under the transport contract concluded between them to transport such goods to a consignee. Such document shall be deemed proof of the carrier's receipt of the transported goods in the condition indicated therein.



20. **Exceptional Load:** Indivisible goods and the vehicle, the total weight and/or overall dimensions of which exceed the approved standard specifications.
21. **Hazardous Materials:** Any solid, liquid, or gaseous substance, whether natural or manufactured, which threatens the environment or any elements thereof, or the health of humans and living organisms due to its toxicity, flammability, explosiveness, or corrosion.

Article 2: Purpose and Scope

1. This Law aims to regulate international land transport between GCC States and to raise the level of road safety.
2. The provisions of this Law and its Regulations shall apply to international land transport between GCC States.

Article 3: Operating Card

A vehicle may not engage in international land transport except upon obtaining an operating card. The Regulations shall specify the types of activities and the minimum information to be included in the card.

Article 4: Cabotage Transport and Empty Entry

1. A vehicle may, upon disembarking passengers or unloading goods in a state other than the state of registration, engage in international land transport only from such state to the state of registration upon its return, in accordance with the conditions and controls specified by the Regulations.
2. A vehicle may enter empty into any GCC State other than the state of registration for transit purposes, in accordance with the conditions and controls specified by the Regulations.
3. A vehicle may not enter empty into any GCC State other than the state of registration for the purpose of engaging in international land transport, except upon obtaining a permit from the state from which the transport is to be made, in accordance with the conditions and controls specified by the Regulations.
4. Subject to paragraph (1) of this Article, a vehicle may not engage in international land transport from a state other than the state of registration, except after obtaining a permit from the state from which the transport is to be made, in accordance with the conditions and controls specified by the Regulations.

Article 5: Unregistered Vehicle

A vehicle not registered in any GCC State may not engage in international land transport to transport to a state other than the state of registration, except upon obtaining the approval of the competent authority in the state from which the transport is to be made. The Regulations shall specify the necessary conditions and controls.

Article 6: Domestic Transportation of Passengers and Goods

A vehicle may not carry passengers or goods between two points within a state other than the state of registration, except upon the approval of the competent authority and in accordance with the laws applicable in such state.

Article 7: Vehicle Conditions and Technical Specifications

The Regulations shall specify the conditions and technical specifications to be met by a vehicle to ensure safe transport operations on the road network.



Article 8: Transportation of Goods

1. It is prohibited to transport goods the importation, expiration, or transit of which is not permitted by the state according to laws applicable in such state.
2. It is prohibited to transport hazardous goods and materials without adhering to the state laws, regulations, and instructions as well as standard specifications approved by the competent authority.
3. It is prohibited to transport weapons, military equipment, explosives, or fireworks as well as materials used in their manufacture from one state to another except upon the approval of the competent authority and in accordance with the laws and instructions applicable in the state where the transport takes place.

Article 9: Exceptional Load

It is prohibited to transport exceptional load without obtaining the approval of the competent authority in the state to which such load is transported. The Regulations shall specify the necessary conditions and controls.

Article 10: Carrier Obligations

A carrier shall, upon engaging in international land transport, adhere to the following:

1. Keep the operating card inside the vehicle.
2. Verify that passengers and drivers carry legal and valid travel documents.
3. Issue a list of passenger names upon transporting passengers in accordance with the Regulations, and keep such list inside the vehicle.
4. Refrain from transporting any personal luggage or items, regardless of their type inside the vehicle without being accompanied by their owners.
5. Tag the personal luggage or items of passengers. The Regulations shall specify the specifications of the tag and the information to be recorded thereon.
6. Use an appropriate vehicle for the type of goods carried, and load such goods in a safe manner.
7. Issue a transport document in accordance with the procedures and controls specified by the Regulations.
8. Comply with the conditions and technical specifications to be met by the vehicle.
9. Comply with the total weight, maximum weight on each axle, and the overall dimensions permitted for the vehicle to travel on the road network.
10. Comply with any other obligations specified by the Regulations.

If the carrier breaches any of these obligations, the competent authority may prevent the violating vehicle from entering or transiting through its territory in the manner provided by the Regulations.

Article 11: Driver Obligations

A driver shall, upon engaging in international land transport, adhere to the following:

1. Enter the state through its official ports.
2. Use lanes and roads permitted to be traveled on within the state.
3. Stop for rest only at designated places in the state.
4. Unload goods at designated places.
5. Adhere to driving and rest hours as specified by the Regulations.
6. Any other obligations specified by the Regulations.



Article 12: Duration of Stay

A vehicle may not exceed the duration specified for its stay within the state, depending on the purpose of entry. The Regulations shall specify the cases in which the vehicle may exceed such duration and the procedures to be followed in such cases.

Article 13: Vehicle Weight and Dimensions

1. The total weight, maximum weight on each axle, and overall dimensions (length, width, and height) permitted by the approved standard specifications for vehicles traveling on the road network in the state may not be exceeded.
2. A vehicle designated for the transportation of goods may not bypass stations for measuring weight and dimensions on the road network in the state without the approval of the competent authority.

Article 14: Violations and Administrative Penalties

The competent authority shall have the power to impose administrative penalties for the violations provided for in this Law.

Article 15

1. Any person who violates Articles 4, 7, 11, or 12 of this Law shall be subject to an administrative fine of not less than 1,000 riyals and not more than 5,000 riyals (or its equivalent in GCC currencies).
2. Any person who violates Articles 5, 8, or 9 of this Law shall be subject to an administrative fine of not less than 5,000 riyals and not more than 20,000 riyals (or its equivalent in GCC currencies).
3. Any person who violates Articles 3 or 6 of this Law shall be subject to an administrative fine of not less than 20,000 riyals and not more than 100,000 riyals (or its equivalent in GCC currencies).

Article 16

Any person who violates Article 13 of this Law shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. An administrative fine of not less than 100 riyals and not more than 1,000 riyals (or its equivalent in GCC currencies) if the vehicle exceeds the total weight permitted to travel on the road network in the state, for every 100 kilograms, or any part thereof, in excess of the total weight by more than 200 kilograms.
2. An administrative fine of not less than 1,000 riyals and not more than 2,000 riyals (or its equivalent in GCC currencies) for any vehicle exceeding the permissible maximum axle weight for traveling on the road network in the state by more than 100 kilograms. This paragraph shall apply if the vehicle does not exceed the total weight permitted to travel on the road network in the state.
3. An administrative fine of not less than 1,000 riyals and not more than 5,000 riyals (or its equivalent in GCC currencies) for any vehicle exceeding all or any of the overall dimensions (length, width, and height) permitted to travel on the road network in the state.
4. An administrative fine of not less than 2,000 riyals and not more than 10,000 riyals (or its equivalent in GCC currencies) if the vehicle bypasses the stations for measuring weight and dimensions located on the road network in the state without the approval of the competent authority.

Article 17: Repeat Violations

Subject to Articles 15 and 16, the amount of the fine for a violation shall be doubled if the violation is repeated within a year from the date of committing such violation, provided that the imposed fine does not exceed the maximum amount.



Article 18: Payment of Fine

The state where a violation of the provisions of this Law is committed may take legal measures to ensure payment of the fines resulting from such violations.

Article 19: Preventing Entry or Transit

If a vehicle or driver violates Articles 8, 9, or 13 of this Law, the competent judicial or administrative authority, as the case may be, may impose a penalty preventing said vehicle or driver, or both, from entering or transiting through the territory of the state for a period not exceeding two years.

Article 20: Appeal

An aggrieved person may file an appeal with the competent authority against the decisions issued in implementation of the provisions of this Law in accordance with the laws in force in the state.

Article 21: Fees and Taxes

A vehicle registered in the GCC states shall be treated in the same manner as a locally registered vehicle with regard to fees, taxes, and service charges.

Article 22: Detection of Violations

The personnel of the competent authority may be granted a detection and recording capacity in implementing the provisions of this Law and its Regulations, in accordance with the applicable procedures in the state.

Article 23: Application of the Law and its Regulations

The competent authority in each state shall take all necessary legal measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Law and its Regulations.

Article 24: Regulations

The competent authority shall, in accordance with the applicable procedures in each state, issue the Regulations upon approval thereof by the Ministerial Committee. Amendment of the Regulations shall be subject to the same procedures.

Article 25: Entry into Force of this Law

This Law shall be approved by the Supreme Council and shall enter into force in accordance with the constitutional procedures of each state.