Border crossings in the age of COVID-19

Using tried and tested UN Conventions

Without TIR/eTIR
Border crossing restrictions: each driver and load compartment is checked, increasing the risk of spreading the virus to customs officers and drivers

With TIR/eTIR
Border crossing facilitation, no need to check every driver and load compartment, reducing the risk of spreading the virus

What is TIR?
TIR is the only global transit system. It enables goods to be shipped from a country of origin, through transit countries, to a country of destination in sealed load compartments that are controlled by customs via a multilateral, mutually recognised system.

It is the easiest, most secure and reliable way to move goods across multiple international borders, saving time and money for transport operators and customs authorities.

Benefits

- Protects drivers
- No disruption of supply chains
- Seamless, contactless border crossing operations
- Electronic exchange of data
- Protects customs officers
- No cargo handling en route
- Continuous cargo flows
Observatory on Border Crossing Status due to COVID-19

A practical tool designed by the United Nations regional commissions, international organizations and the transport industry containing updated information from 115 countries all over the world

https://wiki.unece.org/display/CTRBSBC

IRU Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Hub

In close cooperation with its members and partners, IRU has established the COVID-19 Info Hub, a global source of first-hand, real-time updates and latest updates on the crisis by, and for, the commercial road transport sector

https://www.iru.org/covid19

Recommendations for border crossing operations during the pandemic:

→ Encourage the use of the TIR system, particularly eTIR to ensure seamless and paperless border crossing.

→ Implement measures in a coordinated and harmonized way by:
  (i) promoting cross border customs cooperation as well as cooperation with other national border agencies.
  (ii) collectively preventing discriminatory measures.

→ Establish green lanes for freight transport.