

DRIVING A TOURIST COACH IN NORWAY? WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

If you are performing cabotage operations in Norway (by driving a tourist coach from outside the country), you are entitled to certain rights. For example, you have the right to a minimum salary of NOK 158.37 per hour. This is controlled by the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority.

The Norwegian Public Road Administration (NPRA) randomly controls buses alongside the road. Should you be pulled over by an NPRA representative and your vehicle is registered to carry more than nine persons (including the driver), you will need to present the following documents:

- A community licence.
- A document showing that you either:
 - own the bus
 - hold an employment contract
 - hold a leasing contract.
- A journey form as shown in Regulation 1073/2009 Article 12. If you are operating from the Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark and Finland) you only need to provide the community licence.
- Vehicle documents, and a driver's licence.
- Proof of professional driving competence in accordance with EU law.
- Proof that you are sufficiently prepared to drive on Norwegian toll roads, such as possessing the required toll tag for vehicles over 3.5 tonnes. This tag can be obtained at the border.

Driving and rest periods follow EU regulations and is controlled by the NPRA.

VAT

Your company is required to pay VAT (currently 12%) if it has a turnover of more than NOK 50,000 within a 12-month period. If this is the case, you must register your company in the Norwegian VAT Register. You must also become familiar with the VAT regulations and agree to comply with these regulations.

If your company is required to pay VAT but does not have a permanent business address in Norway, you must become registered through a Norwegian VAT representative. VAT is controlled by the Norwegian Tax Authority (NTA).

SANCTIONS

Generally, if you as the driver are paid below the legal wage limit in Norway, your employer can risk paying fines. These fines may continue to increase for however long it takes to solve the problem. Any violation of an NPRA regulation can lead to fines. If your vehicle is found to be in poor technical condition, you may be refused to drive it further in Norway.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR: On most occasions, a road control is clearly indicated by the authorities.