

Guidelines
for foreign road transport operators regarding the implementation
of the Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system in the Russian Federation,
aimed to offset the damage caused to Russian Federal Highways by vehicles
exceeding 12 tonnes of gross vehicle weight (HGV N3 sub-category)

1. General Information

The Platon Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system was introduced to facilitate and process the collection of toll charges, offsetting the damage caused to Russian Federal Highways by vehicles exceeding 12 tonnes of gross vehicle weight (HGV N3 sub-category).

The date the system is launched is 15th November 2015. It covers all 50,774km of Russian Federal Highways (list of Federal Highways is available [here](#)).

According to the Federal Act On Roads and Road Management in the Russian Federation ([No. 257-FZ of 8 November 2007](#)), the following vehicles are exempt from ETC:

- passenger vehicles; with the exception of dual-purpose vehicles capable of carrying both cargo and passengers, i.e. cargo-passenger vans;
- emergency vehicles fitted with flashing lights and sirens and used by fire brigades, police, ambulance crews, emergency services and military traffic police; and
- special purpose vehicles transporting military equipment and hardware.

On 1 September 2015, the ETC [web-site](#) was launched (now also available in English).

Starting from 15 September 2015, the 24/7-call centre is in operation, providing information in Russian and English. Service Hotline +7-495-540-02-02 (for calls from outside Russia).

On 5 October 2015, self-registration for users was announced, where personal web accounts can be created on the ETC [web-site](#).

On 15 October 2015, 103 Toll service offices were opened (in administrative centres and big cities). To check the list of Toll service offices (or their location on the map) with addresses, click [here](#). Before the system is in operation, 35 more toll service offices will be opened close to border crossing points.

2. System operation principles, payment options

The user pays only for the actual trip distance.

HGV owners pay per kilometre to offset road surface damage on Federal Highways. There are two ways to pay:

a) **By purchasing a toll ticket**

A toll ticket outlines a planned HGV route. The route description is submitted by the HGV owner and is used to calculate the road toll for vehicles not equipped with on-board units.

Each toll ticket contains the following information:

- toll ticket number;
- vehicle registration plate;
- exact valid from time and date;
- time and date of issue;
- validity period;
- total length of Russian Federal Highway stretches en route;
- route description detailing the Russian Highway stretches; and
- road toll amount.

Toll tickets can be obtained at:

- Toll Service Office;
- Toll Collect Terminals; and
- online (via personal web account) or via a mobile app (*available for all types of smartphones*).

To get a toll ticket, HGV owners must provide the following information:

- trip starting point and final destination; 1-3 midpoints if required;

NOTE: *It is the drivers themselves, or a transport operator's employee in their administrative office, who can enter the trip's starting point and final destination. The system will draw up a route with one or two alternatives to choose and will ask for approval. Midpoints are proposed for those who require a more complex route instead of the shortest route. The system will calculate how many kilometres belong to the Federal Highways (to pay), regional roads (no payment), as well as provide the total road toll amount (only kilometres on Federal Highways will be included for charging). If the route contains Toll Road stretches, they are not included in the price of the toll ticket (payment of Toll Road stretches is kept unchanged).*

- time and date of departure;

NOTE: *Time and date can be specified whenever in advance. Validity period of the toll ticket is 1 month.*

- licence plate of the vehicle using the toll ticket; and
- vehicle's certificate of registration number.

NOTE: *If a toll ticket was not used (movement on route was not started), it is possible to cancel PRIOR to the route's start date as indicated during purchase. In this case, the money will be returned to the user's account. If the movement on route was started, a toll ticket cannot be cancelled. If the route needs to be adjusted, the only way in which to do so is to additionally purchase the new stretches of the new route proposed by the system.*

b) By using an on-board unit

On-board units, or OBUs, are an integral part of the heavy vehicle road toll collection system. An OBU is a device which uses GLONASS/GPS satellite positioning technology to track HGV movements on Russian Federal Highways.

On-board units are a convenient option: if an HGV owner has sufficient funds on their ETC account, the toll charges are calculated and collected automatically in accordance with the data obtained from OBU.

To rent an OBU free-of-charge, HGV owners must add themselves to the ETC register and sign a contract for the free OBU rental with the ETC operator after submitting the relevant documents (*at the current stage, security amounts for OBU rental are not collected*).

To sign a free rental contract and get an OBU, the HGV owner or authorised representative must personally come to a Toll Service Office.

Important! An OBU is assigned to a particular vehicle only (linked to the vehicle registration plate) and is non-transferrable.

OBU fitting instructions can be downloaded from [here](#) (so far in Russian only) or by calling our 24hr Service Hotlines.

NOTE: *Toll charges are paid by HGV owners in advance, before a HGV commences a trip on Russian Federal Highways. The toll rate is 3.73 Russian roubles (0.05 EUR according to the exchange rate on 29 October 2015) per 1 kilometre (it is highly possible that in the coming days, the Russian Government will reduce it by 3.06 Russian roubles (0.04 EUR according to the exchange rate on 29 October 2015)).*

Important! It is the driver who is responsible to monitor that an OBU is functioning properly. If an OBU works improperly or becomes out of order, it is necessary to call the Toll Service Office without delay. They will remotely connect to an OBU and attempt to diagnose the problem and try to fix it. They may also restart an OBU remotely.

3. Registration

To facilitate the ETC collection, the operator LLC "RT-Invest Transport Systems" maintains the register, which is a structured database of ETC system users.

HGV owners and their vehicles are added to the register free-of-charge.

Important! It is the HGV owner's responsibility to provide full and accurate information and documentation.

There are several ways for HGV owners to add themselves and their vehicles to the register:

- registering at a [Toll Service Office](#)
- registering at the [online \(via personal web account\)](#)
- registering at a [Toll Collect Terminal](#)

Registering at a Toll Service Office

HGV owners can personally visit a Toll Service Office and the assistants will assist in filling in the necessary registration forms for the owner and vehicles.

If an HGV owner is a [private individual](#), registered outside the Russian Federation, the following documents must be submitted:

- a valid ID confirming the registered home address or address of residence; and
- a vehicle registration certificate.

If an HGV owner is a [company](#) registered under foreign law:

- a copy of the company's Register entry from the country of origin or a similar applicable document confirming the legal status of the foreign company (with a notarised translation in Russian);
- a copy of the state registration certificate of the foreign company (with a notarised translation in Russian);
- a vehicle registration certificate (with a notarised translation in Russian); and
- a valid ID of the person applying.

If the application is submitted by an authorised representative of the HGV owner, the following additional documents will be required:

- a valid ID of the authorised representative; and
- a power of attorney or a similar document, valid at the time of application.

Registering online or at a Toll Collect Terminal

When registering online or at a Toll Collect Terminal, HGV owners must provide the following information in their registration forms (now available in English):

Vehicle information:

- country of registration;
- vehicle registration plate;
- vehicle type;
- vehicle model;

- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN);
- gross vehicle weight as indicated in a vehicle registration certificate or as stated by the vehicle manufacturer in the vehicle type approval; and
- vehicle registration certificate particulars.

HGV owner information:

If an HGV owner is a [private individual](#), registered outside the Russian Federation:

- name, surname, middle name or patronymic (if applicable);
- HGV owner's telephone number; and
- HGV owner's e-mail address.

If registering online, HGV owners ([private individual](#)) must attach electronic copies of vehicle registration certificates to their ETC register application forms (upload scanned copies).

If the HGV owner is a [company](#) registered under foreign law:

- short company's name (if applicable);
- name, surname, middle name or patronymic (if applicable) of the company's CEO;
- full postal address of the HGV owner in the country of registration;
- HGV owner's telephone number; and
- HGV owner's e-mail address.

If registering online, HGV owners ([company](#)) must attach electronic copies of vehicle registration certificates, a company's Register entry from the country of origin or a similar applicable document confirming the legal status of the foreign company, and the state registration certificate of the foreign company to their ETC register application forms (upload scanned copies).

If an HGV owner is represented by an authorised representative (or representatives), the following additional information on the representative(s) must be submitted:

- name, surname;
- telephone number; and
- e-mail address.

Following successful registration in the ETC Register, an HGV owner gets a personal web account.

If the registration was processed by a Toll Service Office or online, the HGV owner will get a login and password for web account access, as well as a PIN for Service Hotlines and Toll Collect Terminals.

A user manual for managing personal web accounts (customer portal) is available so far only in Russian, click [here](#).

So far, it is possible arrange for the deposit for a personal account only with a bank card: a) online; b) at a Toll Service Office; c) at Toll Collect Terminals; d) or via bank transfer to the operator's bank account (presently it is not possible to pay cash at a Toll Service Office).

NOTE: it should be taken into account that when filling in the registration forms online, the operator verifies the submitted information (which may take up to 10 days). If documents are submitted personally and directly at the Toll Service Office, verification is done immediately.

Important! *Toll system operator recommendations for foreign road transport operators:*

- *in case a transport operator has a representative office in Russia, it is advisable that a duly authorised person contacts the nearest Toll Service Office to submit documents and register the vehicles. This would give access to the personal web account that can be managed remotely, as well as order OBUs;*
- *in any other case, it is recommended that a foreign road transport operator purchases a toll ticket. It does not necessarily have to be the driver who goes online and draws up a route. It can be done by any employee sitting in the office. It is not required that a driver must have a toll ticket on board.*

4. Payment control and monitoring, fines

ETC payments are monitored by both stationary and mobile systems:

- overhead gantries on Federal Highways (20 gantries at the initial stage, with a potential for up to 481); and
- mobile patrols using specially equipped vehicles (100 vehicles).

These systems check whether HGVs are registered for ETC and whether their owners have paid the applicable toll. For identification purposes, systems take front and side photos, as well as a photo of the vehicle registration plate.

In a situation where systems cannot identify the HGV or its registration plate automatically, the file goes to the Centre to process the administrative violations for review, with the final decision made by an operator (photos are reviewed manually by operators who double-check if HGV and its registration plate can be identified).

Thus, the ETC operator only keeps records of the cases of non-payment, which are subsequently submitted to the competent authorities (supposed to be the Road Police), together with an owner's file, for further legal persecution.

The Russian Government Order "On Rules of Electronic Toll Collection to Offset the Damage Caused to Russian Federal Highways by Vehicles Exceeding 12 Tonnes of gross vehicle weight" (No. 504 of 14 June 2013) states that failure to pay the ETC occurs when:

- an HGV is travelling with its on-board unit turned off or not working, and the HGV owner has failed to inform the ETC operator or pay the operator;

- an HGV is travelling with no on-board unit fitted, and the HGV owner has failed to inform the ETC operator or pay the operator;
- an HGV with no on-board unit fitted diverts from its agreed route or schedule (time and date), and the HGV owner has failed to inform the ETC operator; or
- an HGV keeps moving after the HGV owner has exhausted the pre-paid funds on their ETC account.

The extent of HGV owners' liability for failing to comply with the Rules of Electronic Toll Collection to offset the damage caused to Russian Federal Highways by vehicles exceeding 12 tonnes of gross vehicle weight is set out in Article 12.21.3 of the Code of Administrative Offences, effective from 15 November 2015:

The use of public Federal Highways by vehicles exceeding 12 tonnes of gross vehicle weight without paying the Road Toll to offset the damage caused to Russian Federal Highways by such vehicles is punishable by the following administrative fines, payable by:

The vehicle driver	5,000 (five thousand) Russian roubles <i>(69.26 EUR as per exchange rate on 29 October 2015)</i>
The person responsible for the vehicle routing and trips (HGV owner's representative)	40,000 (forty thousand) Russian roubles <i>(554.10 EUR as per exchange rate on 29 October 2015)</i>
The HGV owner (if a private individual or a self-employed person)	40,000 (forty thousand) Russian roubles <i>(554.10 EUR as per exchange rate on 29 October 2015)</i>
The HGV owner (if a company or a similar legal entity)	450,000 (four hundred and fifty thousand) Russian roubles <i>(6,233.62 EUR as per exchange rate on 29 October 2015)</i>

Repeated offences are punishable by the following administrative fines, payable by:

The person responsible for the vehicle routing and trips (HGV owner's representative)	50,000 (fifty thousand) Russian roubles <i>(692.62 EUR as per exchange rate on 29 October 2015)</i>
The HGV owner (if a private individual or a self-employed person)	50,000 (fifty thousand) Russian roubles <i>(692.62 EUR as per exchange rate on 29 October 2015)</i>
The HGV owner (if a company or a similar legal entity)	1,000,000 (one million) Russian roubles <i>(13,852.49 EUR as per exchange rate on 29 October 2015)</i>
