

Cross-border workers (so-called pendlers) – complex information valid from March 26th 2020 from 0:00

As of March 26th 2020 from midnight (i.e. night from Wednesday to Thursday) the pendlers are divided into two main categories based on the point of border crossing:

A) Pendlers crossing the border between the Czech Republic and Slovakia and Poland

As of March 26th 2020 there has been no change for this category. The same rules valid until today apply to this category. Rules are likewise the same for pendlers travelling for work into the Czech Republic. Equally, other limitations are valid for them, be it the limitations specifically for pendlers (e.g. prohibition of journeys into nature, etc.) or be it the limitations for all persons on the territory (face protection, minimalizing contact) – see below.

The main rules are:

- regular crossing of internal borders – by regularity it is meant crossing of the border at least 3x per week in one direction
- the place of work performance must be within 100 km from the state border
- pendler must carry with himself/herself a confirmation from an employer
- pendler must carry with himself/herself “a cross-border worker booklet.”

B) Pendlers crossing the border between the Czech Republic and Germany and Austria

Completely new rules apply to this category as of March 26th 2020. These rules are different in regard to:

- a) persons travelling (so-called pendling) from the territory of the Czech Republic
- b) persons travelling (so-called pendling) into the territory of the Czech Republic

For both groups in category B it applies that

- they must travel (pendle) exclusively in tours, each tour must have at least 21 calendar days (i.e. the obligation of frequency of crossing does not apply),
- they do not have to work within 100 km from the state border. In case they travel further than 100 km, they must use for this journey only the main border crossing with the 24/7 regime. Pendlers who travel less than 100 km from the state border may continue to use also the so-called pendlers' crossings,
- they do not need to have “a cross-border worker booklet” – this booklet will be managed by the Police itself in an electronic version.

The obligation to carry with himself/herself a confirmation from an employer about so-called pendling still applies (*text mentioning the limit of 100 km shall be disregarded*).

Only for persons travelling (pendling) from the territory of the Czech Republic it furthermore applies that

- they must undertake quarantine in the length of 14 days between each tour, quarantine must be ensured by their doctor and the proof of it must be provided to the Police at the beginning of a new tour

For persons travelling (pendling) into the territory of the Czech Republic it furthermore applies that

- after completion of 21-day long cycle they must undertake pause in the length of 14 days prior to beginning a new 21-day long cycle
- *the obligation to undertake obligatory quarantine does not therefore apply to them as it is not possible to impose an obligation of quarantine in Germany or Austria, the minimum of two week long pause between tours is however likewise applicable.*

Accommodation:

- accommodation neither in Germany, Austria nor the Czech Republic is not provided by the state authorities of the Czech Republic, accommodation is provided by the employer or by other subject,
- in case of accommodation of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic, the exception from the prohibition of accommodation services provision is applicable, i.e. it continues to be possible to accommodate foreign nationals on the territory of the Czech Republic (Government Resolution No. 241).

Electronic cross-border worker booklet:

- The Police will newly manage an electronic cross-border worker booklet where each crossing of the state border will be noted, that is in case of both the Czech citizens and the pendling foreign nationals (EU citizens). It will be thus possible to clearly determine whether the person has fulfilled the 21-day regime and potentially also the obligatory quarantine. The breach of obligatory quarantine is an offense and the Police will hand over each notice to be dealt with and a sanction to be imposed.

Breach of the length of tour:

- The person returning to Austria and Germany may do so even before the completion of 21-day regime – **however this persons will lose by this the position of a pendler** and he/she will no longer be admitted into the Czech Republic in the regime of a pendler.
- The person returning back home to the Czech Republic may do so even before the completion of 21-day regime – **however this person will lose by this the**

position of a pendler and he/she will no longer be admitted into Germany or Austria in the regime of a pendler.

Circumvention of rules:

- we warn against the circumvention of rules, the Police will register each entry and exit of pendlers as of March 26th 2020
- the most common way of circumvention is through a confirmation for critical infrastructure workers (especially medical personnel) – by critical infrastructure it is only meant such critical infrastructure which is on the territory of the Czech Republic (with the exception of such infrastructure which is in the interest of the Czech Republic – must be confirmed) and is labelled so by the Government Regulation; critical infrastructure workers (especially repair and service) travel **suddenly, not regularly**.

Other obligations:

- All pendlers have obligation to tolerate a health check at the borders upon the entry – Government Regulation No. 247
- All pendlers must wear a protection of mouth and nose (face mask, scarf, etc.) – Government Regulation No. 247
- All pendlers must observe even stricter requirements on minimalizing of social contact (Government Regulation No. 215 and 247): pendlers cannot
 - travel to see family or close persons,
 - provide needs and services for other persons,
 - travel to deal with urgent administrative matters
 - stay in nature or parks.

Changes with regard to pendlers do not impinge on the functioning of border crossing and other types of exceptions. Pay attention that especially international (freight/cargo) transport is an individual exception of its own – especially truck drivers are not considered to be pendlers! For these persons the obligation to carry a confirmation for workers of international transport applies. Likewise the same regime limitations as for other persons on the territory of the Czech Republic is applicable (face masks, minimalizing of contact).