

HGV - Viapass Road Tolls/Tax in Belgium

If you are **HGV and have a Gross Vehicle Weight over 3.5ton** or are a Semi-Trailer Tractor Unit of any weight you need an On Board Unit (OBU) that allows you to pay the Viapass Belgian road tax/tolls as you drive. An OBU is the **ONLY** way to pay these and if you don't have one (that is on and working!) you risk **on the spot fines of €2400+ or vehicle impoundment and imprisonment**, as one of our SXS members found out last year!!!

If unsure about whether you need an OBU call **Viapass** on **00 32 2709 7940** or go to their website <https://www.viapass.be/en/about-viapass/> for more information.

How does the system work?

- 1) Every domestic or foreign heavy goods vehicle over 3.5 tonnes on Belgian roads must have a working OBU from April 1st 2016. From 01st January 2018 this also includes Semi-Trailer Tractor Units regardless of weight.
- 2) The OBU detects where the vehicle is and which route it is following, via satellite signals.
- 3) The system adapts the road charge to the type of road.
- 4) The OBU calculates the toll to be paid. The tariffs depend on the maximum authorised vehicle weight, the Euro emission class and the type of road. The toll is calculated according to how many kilometres are driven and where (in which region).
- 5) The owner receives an overview of the amount to be paid. The amount due is paid to Satellic, which transfers the toll to the three Belgian regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels-Capital) according to the use of the road network.
- 6) Fixed, flexible and mobile checks across Belgium verify whether the heavy goods vehicles have a working OBU.

Maps of the three regions and tariffs for each weight/emissions class can be found at:

<http://www.viapass.be/en/downloads/>

What do you need? Where can you get it?

To be compliant, you need a working OBU (showing a green light at all times and no error messages).

You can get these before leaving the UK, by registering online, via the Satellic website or directly at a Service Point located in Belgium or neighbouring countries (see Satellic website for locations).

Keeping or returning the OBU

You can return your OBU after each use, or you can keep the OBU and any credit you have on it (if you have a pre-pay account) for the next time you need it (even if it's a year later). ****Just remember to charge it and switch it on to update regularly****. When you know you will not drive your HGV in Belgium again you can return the OBU, complete as it was delivered to you, for a full refund of your deposit and any prepaid toll credit.

The easiest way to get an OBU is to register and order it online **in good time before you leave the UK!**

Go to: <https://www.satellic.be/en-UK> and complete in this order:

- 1) **Register an account**
- 2) **Register your vehicle/s** to your account (you will need to upload V5/Plating documents etc.)
- 3) **Order an OBU** for each vehicle, will be sent to you by post (it takes 2-10 working days to arrive!)
- 4) When it arrives **couple it to your registered vehicle** (if you did not do this when ordering it.)
- 5) If you have a pre-pay account, go online and **top up** your OBU in Euros to cover your journey.
- 6) **Plug the OBU in to the vehicle** to activate and update its software and activate your top up (**before driving in Belgium!**)

HELPFUL HINTS:

Reading the following manuals (see the Manuals tab on the homepage or go to <https://www.satellic.be/en-UK/downloads/rup-manual>) is highly recommended as they are step by step guides to doing all this!

- 1) Account Registration
- 2) Vehicle Registration and within this the link to Vehicle Papers that you will need to upload to prove your vehicle data.
****NB - The max limit for all uploaded files is 10MB.
****NB - When registering a vehicle, you must enter the **Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) or Max Train Weight (MTW)** (i.e. the max load your vehicle can be with a trailer) as per your V5/Plating Certificate.
- 3) Order an On Board Unit – You will pay a deposit of €135.
- 4) Once you have your OBU - Couple an OBU to your vehicle (if not done at vehicle registration.)
- 5) If you set up a Pre-pay account, ensure you Top up your OBU with enough Euros to cover your journey **before driving in Belgium.**
- 6) Go to 'Manuals' on the home page and read Quick Start Guide and OBU Handbook to understand its operation.

MORE TIPS:

- 1) If not using on a regular basis, make sure you plug in and charge it every couple of months. Also switch your OBU on **a week before you travel** so it can update to the latest software and you can check it works properly (green light on and no error messages). This may take 20 minutes or more. You then have time to get help or a new unit if yours doesn't work!!
- 2) When you leave the UK and **get to France (i.e. at Calais) switch on your OBU** again so you can check it works ahead of entering Belgium (green light on and no error messages) and is updated.

HELP:

Any error messages, a red light or other problems at any time call:

Satellic (24/7 service) on **00 32 2416 0416** (is a Belgium number, but they speak good English!)