

To whom it may concern

On 1 January 2021, the Republic of Slovenia will introduce a Motorway Police service with the intention to improve road safety, reduce congestion and establish more order on motorways and expressways.

The introduction of a Motorway Police service from 1 January 2021 will bring some restrictions, which will affect vehicles whose maximum permissible weight exceeds 7,5 tonnes. They will have a daily ban on overtaking on the A1 motorway between Koper and Šentilj starting on 15 January 2021, which will bring users of Slovenian motorways and expressways greater flow, improved traffic safety and less anxiety among drivers.

In practice this means that in the event of an accident, all heavy goods vehicles will be in the right lane and the rest of the traffic on the left lane(s). As a result, the formation of a rescue lane and interventional removal of vehicles when necessary will be much easier. If an incident would cause a total road closure, reopening of the MW or EW for all vehicles would therefore be quicker. In cases of serious traffic accidents, heavy vehicles will be kept in the right lane and passenger cars will be diverted to parallel roads.

Heavy vehicles will no longer slow down the flow of traffic in the overtaking lane and we will continue to warn other vehicles to drive right and overtake left (also as part of our awareness campaign through the gantries above the motorway). This also means that heavy vehicles in the right lane must respect the prescribed safety distance. It will also make it easier to position vehicles and thus ameliorate the traffic flow before roadblocks and border crossings.

We are aware, that no ban will work if there is no proper control or police supervision. Heavy vehicle drivers who will violate the overtaking ban must expect to be sanctioned. This is one of the reasons why The Motorway Company in the Republic of Slovenia (DARS) and the Slovenian National Police Force established a dedicated Motorway Police service with the support of both the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of the Interior. In the future one of the options we are talking about is also mixed patrols of police and toll enforcement officers.

However, it should be emphasized that this restriction is not completely new, as individual sections of the A1 and A2 motorways already have a ban on heavy vehicles overtaking. On some sections it is in force during the morning and afternoon rush hours, while on others it may apply 24 hours a day.

DARS d.d.

