

**APPROVED TACHOGRAPH CENTRE**

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

**SN 02-2026**

**Issued June 2026**

**Designated Managers (DMs) must read and understand the content of this Special Notice (SN) and sign to that effect in the box below. They must also ensure all Nominated Technicians (NTs) are issued with this Special Notice, have read and understood its contents, and have signed to that effect in the box below.**

**All NTs must sign in the boxes below to confirm that they have read and understood the contents of this Special Notice.**

**DMs are required to keep the signed Special Notices in the rear of the Approved Tachograph Centre Manual, which should always be available for reference.**

**These Special Notices may be requested by DVA staff for inspection during centre audit visits.**

DM	NT	NT	NT
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**To all Designated Managers and Nominated Technicians in Analogue and Digital Approved Centres.**

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### **1 Zero-Emission Vehicles (3.5–4.25t)**

Recent changes to the Goods Vehicles (Testing, Drivers' Hours and Tachographs etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, which provide for changes to the rules for zero-emission vehicles with a gross weight between **3,501 kg** and **4,250 kg**, do not apply in Northern Ireland. These vehicles will need to be fitted with a tachograph, unless another exemption applies. This may also apply to used vehicles previously operated in GB and subsequently sold into NI.

### **Alternative-Fuel Vehicles (up to 7.5t)**

There is an existing exemption from tachograph rules for any vehicle which:

- is used by an undertaking for the carriage of goods within a 100 kilometre radius from where the undertaking is based,
- is propelled by means of natural or liquefied gas or electricity and
- has a maximum permissible mass, including the weight of any trailer or semi-trailer drawn by it, not exceeding 7.5 tonnes.



Any zero-emission vehicles (3.5–4.25t) used on journeys between Great Britain and Northern Ireland will still require a tachograph and will remain in scope of drivers' hours rules unless another exemption applies.

## **2 Goods vehicles used internationally over 2.5tonnes.**

On or after **1 July 2026**, a Smart tachograph 2 must be fitted into goods vehicles with a gross weight of **over 2,500kg**, undertaking international journeys for hire and reward.

If the vehicle is undertaking an international journey for the driver or company's own account and driving does not constitute the main activity of the driver, there is no requirement to fit a tachograph. Other existing exemptions may also apply.

In addition, if the vehicle weighs over 2.5 tonnes and less than 3.5 tonnes and is operating only within the UK, then there continues to be no requirement to fit a tachograph into the vehicle.

If an in-scope vehicle is newly registered with effect from 24 December 2025, then a full Smart Tachograph 2 must be fitted. If an in-scope vehicle is registered before this date, then a transitional Smart Tachograph 2 may be fitted.

**Issued by:**

**Approved Tachograph Scheme Manager**

**Email: [DVA.tachographcentres@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:DVA.tachographcentres@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)**

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**Safer Drivers, Safer Vehicles**



An Agency within the Department for

**Infrastructure**

[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Gníomhaireacht laistigh den Roinn

**Bonneagair**

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