

Changes in the electronic toll system

Bratislava, 30 December 2013 – **On 1 January 2014 a legislation* is going to come into effect introducing several adjustments into the electronic toll system. They will practically affect all of the operators of vehicles over 3.5 tons liable to pay tolls using the road network of the Slovak Republic.**

The most important adjustments in the electronic toll system taking effect as of 1 January 2014 are:

- Adjustment of the network of the specified road sections
- Reclassification of the existing EURO emission classes
- Adjustment of toll rates
- Introduction of the system of providing the so-called quantity discounts
- Other adjustments in the area of toll collection enforcement

Adjustment of the network of specified road sections

The current network of the specified road sections will be expanded by new specified sections of 1st class roads having the total length of 234 km, specified sections of roads located within the boundaries of towns and municipalities and specified sections of the D1 motorway and the D2 motorway within the boundary of Bratislava, which will be subject to toll payment. The network of the specified road sections will also include the specified sections of the remaining 1st class roads and the specified sections of all the 2nd and 3rd class roads, which will be subject to a zero toll rate. Drivers shall only be allowed to drive on all of the specified road sections with an operational On-Board Unit. As a result all of the toll-liable vehicle operators shall, before entering with their vehicle on the specified roads sections (including the roads that are subject to zero toll rate), be obliged to enter into the Contract on the Use of Specified Road Sections and the Contract on the Provision of the On-Board Unit and to have an On-Board unit installed and appropriately set in the vehicle.

Reclassification of the existing EURO emission classes

The operators of vehicles of the EURO IV, V, VI and EEV emission class are currently registered in the toll system in the EURO IV+ category with an equal toll rate. Since 1 January 2014 the EURO IV class will be included in one common category with the EURO III class with a higher toll rate, as the most environmentally friendly category. All vehicles of the EURO V, VI and EEV emission classes will be included in the category. Inclusion of vehicles of the EURO 0 – II emission class in one category remains without any adjustment. The operators of those vehicles that are currently registered in the electronic toll system in one common emission class of EURO IV+ shall, based on the aforesaid reclassification, be obliged to carry out a change in the vehicle registration data by 31 December 2013 at the latest.

Adjustment of toll rates

Depending on the emission class the toll rate level will favour the most environmentally friendly vehicles more than in the past. The lorries over 3.5 tons in the highest emission classes (EURO V, VI,

EEV) will pay lower rates and lorries over 3.5 tons with the other emission classes (EURO 0 – IV) will pay higher rates than the ones that are currently applicable.

The new rates will also take into account the use of the specified sections of 1st class roads that are subject to toll payment. The rates for the use of the specified sections of 1st class roads that are parallel to motorways and expressways will be the same for lorries over 3.5 tons as in case of the specified sections of the motorways and the expressways. The toll rates for buses over 3.5 tons for the use of the specified sections of 1st class roads that are subject to toll payment shall remain the same.

Introduction of the system of providing the so-called quantity discounts

Vehicles that use the specified road sections often shall earn certain discounts on the applicable toll rates. The level of these discounts shall depend on the number of kilometres driven by specific vehicles on the roads that are subject to toll payment in the course of one calendar year. The number of kilometres driven shall not include the kilometres driven on the specified road sections with a zero toll rate. The discounts shall not apply to buses over 3.5 tons because they have already had 50-percent discounts on toll rates since the launch of the electronic toll system in 2010.

Other adjustments in the area of toll collection enforcement

As of 1 January 2014 several measures will come into force intended to increase the efficiency of the toll collection enforcement. The most important ones are introduction of the principle of the so-called strict liability of the operators of vehicles over 3.5 tons, adjustment of the rules for collection of supplementary tolls and fines for toll and administrative offences and reclassification of toll and administrative offences by defining the ranges for fines according to their seriousness.

** Act No. 474/2013 Coll. on Toll Collection for the Use of Specified Sections of Roads and on amending and supplementing certain acts,*

Decree No. 475/2013 Coll., which defines the sections of motorways, expressways, 1st class roads, 2nd class roads and 3^d class road subject to toll collection,

** Decree No. 476/2013 Coll., which executes some provisions of Act on Toll Collection for the Use of Specified Sections of Roads and on amending and supplementing certain acts.*

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