

Subject: Hungarian tachograph cards with wrong certificate

The Hungarian tachograph card manufacturing company reported that driver and company cards valid for five years, manufactured between March 7, 2016 and November 1, 2016, were fitted with an incorrect data certificate expiring on March 6, 2021, therefore, the tachograph indicates a much earlier expiration date to the driver than the date printed on the card. This means in practise that from 7 March 2021, even though the validity period printed on the card has not yet expired, the tachograph will not accept these cards, so it will not be possible to use them from that date.

The affected cards can be replaced ex officio and free of charge by the Ministry for Innovation and Technology, the Hungarian Card Issuing Authority if the holder of the tachograph card agrees to this. In this case the authority should be informed in writing, electronically or by e-mail. The Ministry confirms the start of card issuing process via e-mail (from kartyapotlas@itm.gov.hu address) or a downloadable pdf document.

The authority doesn't oblige the driver to send back the card before producing the new card so they are able to keep the recorded data for the previous 28 days.

In addition to the case described above drivers can, of course, request the replacement or renewal of the tachograph card in accordance with the relevant legal provisions and the procedures already used.

According to Article 4(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/267 the driver may continue to drive until a new driver card is received from the card-issuing authorities provided that the driver can prove that the driver card was returned to the competent authority when it was damaged or malfunctioning and that its replacement was requested.

If the driver applies for the replacement of card as explained in this letter, the card issuing authority takes measures to issue a confirmation document. I would also mention that the driver may not return immediately the driver card to the competent authority in order to have the recorded data for the previous 28 days.

From drivers perspective this case is a force majeure, please consider it during the enforcement processes.

I would like to ask you to forward the above-mentioned information to the enforcement authorities. If you have any question please feel free to contact us via e-mail (kghf@itm.gov.hu).