



**The Deputy Minister of Transport
and the Cross-Border Freight Operators
discuss issues affecting the industry**

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Leading economic cross-border road transport regulator facilitating unimpeded flow of goods and people across the African continent

MISSION

To drive an integrated African continent through excellence in cross border road transport economic regulation, law enforcement, advisory and facilitation of unimpeded flow of goods and people

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Dear Industry Partners,

Allow me to welcome you to welcome you to this edition of *Transcending Borders*. We publish this external newsletter every quarter to inform the cross-border operators and the industry as a whole about the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency's (C-BRTA) activities and programmes and general industry matters.

We are releasing this publication at the end of the second quarter of our financial year. This is an important period for the transport industry in South Africa because the whole industry gears itself to launch the October Transport Month (OTM) which runs from the beginning of October till the end on an annual basis. OTM is a nationwide campaign which is championed by the Minister of Transport to highlight and showcase the important role that transport plays in economic development. As an Entity of the Department of Transport, we will be hard at work, in partnership, with other Transport Entities to support the Minister of Transport during the campaign by showcasing our value add to the transport industry.

Over the past three months, we have been working hard, as the C-BRTA, to implement the initiatives which are geared towards helping the Agency to achieve its mandate of facilitating the smooth flow of passengers and goods across borders. To this end, we have been engaging various stakeholders in the country and on the continent, especially the SADC region to ensure that we establish and maintain partnerships with other authorities in the industry.

We have also travelled to the Netherlands and Switzerland in September 2022 to make a follow-up on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which the C-BRTA has signed with the Netherlands institute of Transport (NIWO) in 2021. The MOU

is focused broadly on the training and exchange of information. We also met with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) in Switzerland. The C-BRTA signed a cooperation agreement with the IRU in 2018 and it was also important to meet and make a follow-up as well as track progress on the initiatives which form part of the cooperation agreement.

Towards the end of September 2022, we visited Canada to support the Deputy Minister of Transport. Ms. Sindisiwe Chikunga on a border visit between Canada and the USA. The purpose of the visit was to benchmark and identify best practices in relation to cross-border transportation and border management practices.

We will soon be visiting the United States of America (USA) in have discussions with the USA Transport Authorities on various topics regarding cross-border road transport regulation and the digitalisation of systems, data sharing, smart enforcement technologies, etc.

These are some of the activities that we have been busy with recently to ensure that we forge partnerships which are necessary to help us grow and bring efficiencies in the cross-border road transport industry.

Please go through the newsletter to read about some of the activities which we have been busy with over the past few months.

Regards,

Lwazi Mboji
CEO: Cross-Border Road Transport Agency

The Deputy Minister of Transport and the Cross-Border Freight Operators discuss issues affecting the industry



As part of the C-BRTA's ongoing efforts to engage stakeholders and resolve Operators' challenges, the Agency hosted a Freight Operators' Networking Breakfast Meeting on Friday, 19 August 2021 in Kempton Park. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister of Transport, Mrs. Sindisiwe Chikunga who delivered a keynote address and engaged the Cross-Border Freight Operators on the need to come up with solutions to the problems which are affecting the cross-border road transport industry.

The purpose of the meeting was to afford the operators an opportunity to discuss cross-border road transport and trade issues affecting the industry. These included delays at various Ports of Entry, the burning of trucks by protesting truck drivers, the high costs of conducting business for South African Operators and lack of harmonisation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region as well as many other issues. The Deputy Minister delivered a keynote address and informed

the delegates that government is aware of the challenges which affect the industry. She said that while government, through the C-BRTA, is working hard to address these challenges, she called on the industry to come on board and work with government in its effort to improve and bring efficiencies.

“Ladies and gentlemen, government is aware that the regulatory environment in the SADC region is not harmonised as envisaged in the SADC Protocol and road transport agreements. The freight transport industry is still faced with challenges which call upon all of us as stakeholders to join hands and eliminate them,” she said.

The Deputy Minister further said; “I am sure you will agree with me that the challenges and opportunities facing the industry cannot not be handled by the C-BRTA alone. I therefore urge the industry to cooperate and partner with the Agency to tackle the mammoth task of finding lasting solutions to these hindrances. I



direct the Agency and request the industry to forge a partnership with the goal of finding lasting solutions to the challenges faced by the cross-border road transport industry a whole.”

The Operators also indicated that while there are many challenges in the industry, they also acknowledged progress made in some areas and commended the C-BRTA for the work it does in the industry. This included reducing delays at some border posts.

This networking breakfast meeting was one of the many engagement platforms that are organised by the Agency as part of fulfilling its mandate of facilitating the smooth flow of passengers and goods across the borders.



YOUR feedback is important to US

The C-BRTA appreciates your **time** and **feedback**.



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The C-BRTA launches OCAS to regulate better



The C-BRTA officially launched the pilot for one of its flagship projects, the Operator Compliance Accreditation System (OCAS) in September 2022 along the N4 road towards Lebombo Border Post which connects South Africa with Mozambique. OCAS, as a scheme, is an intelligent risk-based regulatory tool composed of systems, processes, procedures and standards that will be used for certifying and licencing cross-border operators. It is anchored on risk-based management processes as underpinned by ISO 39001, which is the standard for Road Traffic Safety Management System. It is founded on safety and quality management principles for reducing the risk of accidents and providing incentives for regulatory compliance.

The major aim of implementing the Operator Compliance Accreditation Scheme is to accredit cross-border road transport operators who comply with legislative requirements that include ensuring regular vehicle maintenance, vehicle roadworthiness, overload prevention, use of drivers with proper competence. To this effect, the operators will need to prove that they have systems in place to comply with regulatory requirements and the standards and business rules of the Scheme. Compliant operators will then be given incentives based on their compliance. Thus, effectively OCAS will balance cross-border transport movement facilitation and regulatory control for the transport operators. This will also induce and enhance seamless corridor traffic flow and eliminate unnecessary constraints to legitimate and compliant

operators, among others.

This scheme was conceptualised and developed by the C-BRTA a few years ago as one of the tools to enable the Agency to live up to its mandate of improving the unimpeded flow by road of freight and passengers in the region; to reduce operational constraints for the cross-border road transport industry as a whole; and to empower the cross-border road transport industry to improve safety, security, reliability, quality and efficiency of services.

Furthermore, OCAS, is expected to assist in the elimination of most of the challenges facing cross-border road transport operators such as delays along corridors including border posts, severe accidents, low fleet productivity, high cost of doing business and the effects of lack of harmonisation between member states with which South Africa trades. Besides these micro benefits, operators will realise, OCAS will also enable South Africa to realise macro benefits in terms of increased and quicker exports, increased economic growth, increased trade volumes and revenues emanating from exploitation of the bigger SADC market, and faster realisation of the regional integration agenda.

The C-BRTA launched OCAS pilot, in partnership, with the South African Revenue Service in September 2022 at Lebombo Border Post. Please read more about the pilot project in the next page.

OCAS-AEO Joint Pilot Project:

Moving goods efficiently and faster

The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency and the South African Revenue Service have launched implementing a joint Operator Compliance Accreditation System (OCAS) and Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) pilot project on the N4 corridor up to Lebombo border post. The joint pilot project is targeted at cross-border road freight transport and exports from South Africa, and is designed to make it easier and quicker for accredited cross-border vehicles and traders to move goods faster through the corridor, and across the Lebombo border post. The pilot operations were launched on 26 September 2022.

The long term objective is to ensure that accredited transport operators and traders experience minimal delays at border posts and facilitating efficient cross-border road transport movements and legitimate trade between South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Who can Participate in the Joint Pilot Project?

Participation is voluntary and is open to all cross-border road transport operators and traders who meet the minimum requirements:

- **Cross-Border Road Freight Transport Operators:** Participation is open to South African registered cross-border road freight transport operators with valid cross-border permits, operators who demonstrate verifiable evidence that they meet all mandatory OCAS requirements for cross-border road transport operations who have implemented documented procedures or recognised road transport management systems for managing operations, operators accredited or undertaking to get accredited on AEO-S or transporting AEO-S accredited clients' goods. In line with the Protection of Personal Information Act, pilot participants will be required to give consent regarding sharing of information with relevant stakeholders for the purposes of the pilot project.
- **Traders:** Participation is open to all traders accredited by SARS for the AEO-S programme. Traders will also be accredited under OCAS.

In order to participate in the joint pilot, transport operators and traders will need to be accredited under both OCAS and AEO. Therefore, applications for accreditation should be submitted to both C-BRTA and SARS.



What are the expected benefits?

- Reduction of delays and transit time.
- Seamless cross-border road transport operations.
- Economic benefits and improved productivity to traders and transport operators.
- Receiving immediate support and assistance.
- Prioritised Departmental administrative processing.
- Increased trade competitiveness.

How to apply for OCAS Accreditation?

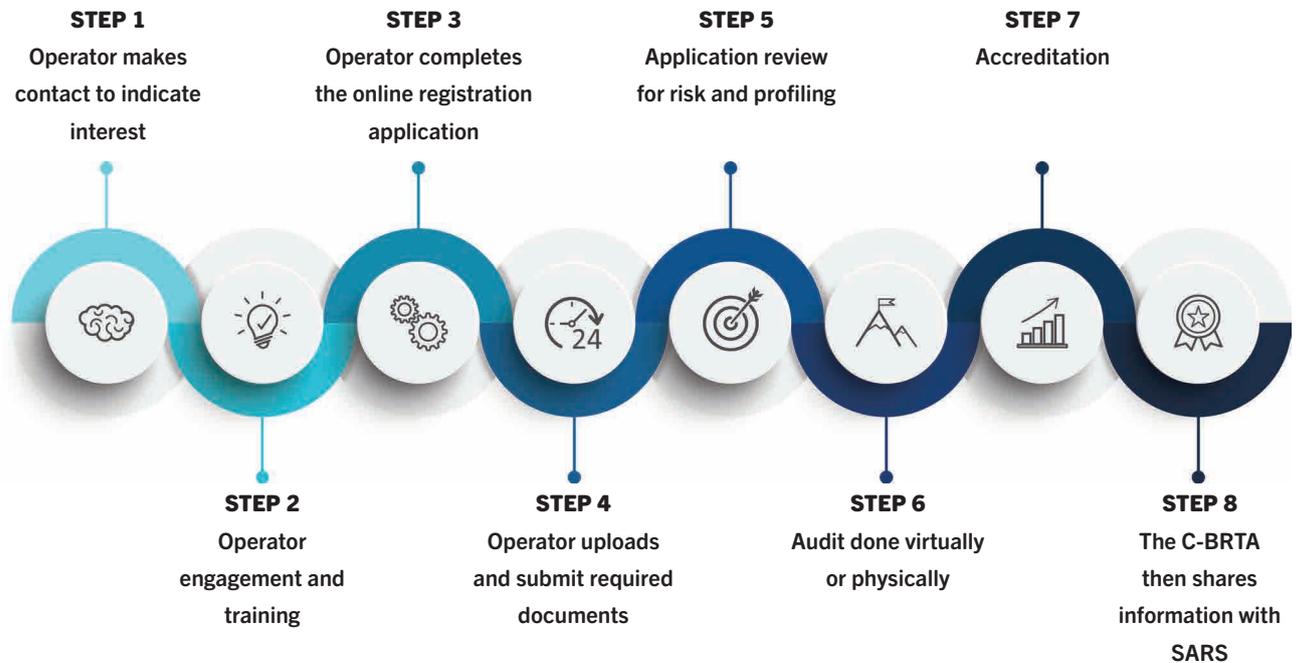
Cross-border transport operators interested in participating are required to make contact with the following officials who can be contacted through the details below:

- Ms Carol Madigage: Carol.Madigage@cbrta.co.za
- Ms Thethiwe Jika: Thethiwe.Jika@cbrta.co.za
- Mr Makibinyane Thoso: Makibinyane.Thoso@cbrta.co.za
- Ms Vuyiswa Mgwevu: Vuyiswa.Mgwevu@cbrta.co.za

Operators are required to complete the registration form and submit all the documents required to complete the assessment for accreditation through the link provided and process shown below.

<https://fs11.formsite.com/vv5SK0/ocas/index.html>

PROCESS



The steps which will be followed to complete the application process are outlined below for ease of reference. If all the required information and documents are submitted on time, the process will be finalised within a period of two weeks

Which documents must be prepared and uploaded with each application. The following documents must be prepared in PDF format and submitted with each and every application:

- Company registration document for companies or identification document for one-man business.
- A valid cross-border road transport permit for all the vehicles being applied for, with no less than 3 months' validity period from date of application.
- A valid SARS Tax clearance certificate.
- Confirmation that the operator has a route adherence monitoring system for vehicles being applied for accreditation e.g. GPS.
- Confirmation that the vehicle to be used has equipment on vehicle for incident management e.g. emergency triangles and fire extinguisher.
- Valid vehicle licence/ roadworthy certificate for all the vehicles being applied for accreditation.

- Record that the drivers for the vehicles being applied for accreditation have right competence i.e. driver's licence and Professional Driver Permit.
- Confirmation that the operator has a system or documented procedure for vehicle load or mass management to avoid overloading.
- Confirmation that the operator has a system or documented procedure for proper vehicle load dimensions and configuration management.
- Confirmation that operator has a system or documented procedure for vehicle and driver monitoring enroute e.g. GPS.
- Confirmation that the person managing operations has enough competence (training and / or experience).
- Record or undertaking that the operator will be accredited under AEO or transport AEO accredited clients' goods.

When to Submit Applications

Submission of applications for OCAS accreditation is currently open. All applications must be submitted through the link provided above. You can contact the officials whose details are provided above for any support or enquiries regarding submission of applications.

Did you know?



It is illegal to operate as a commercial cross-border transport operator without a permit.

The C-BRTA licenses commercial cross-border road transportation by offering permits to passenger and freight operators.

We offer two types of permits and these are:

- Temporary Permits, and
- Long Term Permits.

Temporary permits range from 14 days to three months depending on the needs of the operator. Long term permits range from 12 months to five years for operators who run permanent or regular cross-border business. These are applicable to both passenger and freight operations.

Operators can visit our offices at **350 Which-Hazel Avenue, Eco Point Office Park, Block A, Eco Park, Centurion** to apply for permits. We also accept electronic applications. Application forms can be downloaded from the C-BRTA website and then send through completed application forms to **permits@cbrta.co.za**. Once all the required documentation is received, a dedicated officer will process the application. The operator will be informed once the permit is ready for collection. Alternatively, at the client's request, the permit may be posted to the client for their convenience.

For more information on permits call **+27 12 471 2000** or visit **www.cbrta.co.za**