

TRANSCENDING BORDERS

The official Publication of the
Cross-Border Road Transport Agency
November 2021



Transport Minister Launched
Festive Season Road Safety Campaign

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VISION

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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**WEAR A MASK,
BEND THE CURVE**
Let's Do OUR Part!

**STAY
SAFE**

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Dear Readers,

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to our Christmas edition of our external newsletter, Transcending Borders. As the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA), we mainly use this external publication to update our stakeholders about the Agency's work and other cross-border road transport industry matters. In other words, this publication is used as a tool to share the C-BRTA's activities and programmes with our stakeholders so that they are kept in the loop. As an organisation that is heavily reliant on extensive stakeholder engagements to deliver on its mandate, a publication like this becomes an important communication vehicle to keep stakeholders informed about cross-border road transport industry matters.

The outbreak of the global Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 heavily affected businesses across the world and this is still happening in 2021. The transport fraternity was also not saved from this impact due to the lockdown restrictions which were imposed by different countries as a measure to minimise the spread and impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the continent.

This new reality placed us in a difficult position because we had to adopt new ways of doing things in pursuit of our mandate as a regulator in the cross-border road transport industry. We had to come up with innovative ways of continuing to engage different stakeholder, to come up with ways of continuing to facilitate the transportation of passengers and goods across the borders, to ensure trade and sustainability of various economies on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the continent at large.

To this effect, we have been hard at work to advance our work in the region. In recent times we convened a Cross-border Road Transport Webinar to allow various stakeholders on the continent to discuss issues affecting Transport and Trade. The webinar was a success because it allowed stakeholders to discuss challenges which are affecting trade between countries. I am glad that the outcome of the webinar was an action plan which serves as a roadmap towards resolving some of the challenges we are facing as a continent.



We are also working with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) in 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 operators and exporters 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 are expected to start in January 2022.

We are also working on other projects which are geared towards bringing innovations in the industry. We will make announcements on these in due course.

In this edition, we have covered several stories which are centred on the programmes and initiatives we are championing as the C-BRTA. These include the OCAS/AEO pilot project, road safety initiatives and other stakeholder engagement initiatives which are central to our operations as the Agency.

Please go through the publication to read more about these. Enjoy the read!

Let me also take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2022!!

Regards,

Lwazi Mboyi

Acting CEO: Cross-Border Road Transport Agency



TRANSPORT MINISTER, FIKILE MBALULA LAUNCHED Festive Season Road Safety Campaign

The Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula officially launched the 2021 Festive Season road safety awareness campaign at Caleb Motshabi in Bloemfontein, Free State province on Monday, 13 December 2021.

The Festive Season Road Safety awareness campaign is a government programme that aims to prioritise and promote safer road usage during the high peak season on South African roads. The objective of the campaign is not only to ensure smooth flows of traffic, but also to prevent negligent and reckless driving which could result in road crashes, injuries and fatalities.

The Festive Season Road Safety launch is a collaboration between different levels of government, transport entities led by CEOs, private sector organisations, NGOs and key stakeholders and role players.

Festive season activities in South Africa are associated with year-end celebrations, economic industry slow-downs and year-end closures, increased traffic volumes and increased road crash incidents. The large proportion of road crash victims usually being pedestrians and passengers as a result of lack or even non-usage of safety belts and jaywalking.

In order to support the Minister in his call for road safety in South Africa, the C-BRTA as one of the Entities of Transport has been implementing its road safety strategy which aims to encourage the cross-border road transport operators to



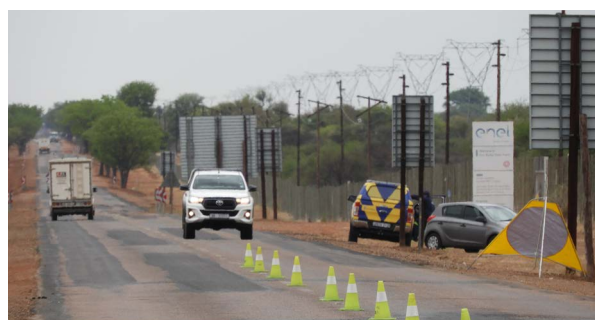


observe road safety at all times. This is in an effort to ensure safe transportation of passengers and goods along the corridors which lead to various ports of entry that link South Africa with its neighbouring countries.

For instance, as part of its main October Transport Month (OTM) programme, the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency in partnership, with the Limpopo Traffic Police and Road Accident Fund (RAF) conducted a Driver Fatigue Management Road Safety Campaign and piloted a C-BRTA data gathering and analytical tool at Grobler's Bridge Border Post which links south Africa with Botswana. The tool aimed at enhancing road safety practices in the country and it has been piloted in various corridors aimed at improving its functionality.

The entire road safety campaign was implemented with the assistance of the Limpopo Provincial Department of Roads and Transport and other Transport Agencies who embarked on a variety of activities such as a border walk, joint roadblock and the simulation of the road safety tool. Other agencies such as South African Revenue Services (SARS) Customs Division, Home Affairs, South African Police Services (SAPS), Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) and the Department of Transport (Corridor Development and Dangerous Goods) were part of the operation.

The C-BRTA is continuing to conduct similar road safety campaigns across the country, especially along the corridors which lead to border posts.





An accurate, convenient, and secure way to apply and track your cross-border permits online.

Improving your Cross-Border Trade Efficiency

The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency supports the South African economy by facilitating the seamless movement of goods and passengers, through the reduction of operational constraints, regulating market access and issuing permits.

The C-BRTA has developed Cross-Easy, which is a new self-service system that will allow Operators to apply for permits online.

Benefits of the Cross-Easy

- Accessible 24/7
- Convenient
- Quick online registration process
- Improved operator satisfaction and experience
- Improved Accountability

Enhanced Operator Service Experience

- Verify tax compliance
- Verify Vehicle Roadworthiness & registration
- Monitor status of permit application
- Email or SMS notifications on the status of permit applications
- Apply or renew permits from anywhere at anytime
- Allows for the uploading of required documentation
- Easily accessible on any device, such as tablet, computer or cell phone
- Available online customer support

How to access Cross-Easy

- Access the system on **www.CrossEasy.co.za** or from the C-BRTA website
- Register to create login details
- Follow the step-by-step instructions on the permit application and payment process
- Get notification of your application status
- Collect permit/s from the C-BRTA permit office or have them delivered via registered mail or courier service

Digital transformation enables an understanding of Operators and it is at the core of enhancing the C-BRTA service delivery to cross border road transport Operators.



Register for Cross-Easy

Saving you time

- ✓ Track and trace your application online
- ✓ Perform online payments
- ✓ Monitor current permit status
- ✓ Renew, duplicate or amend permit routes online

For more information visit **www.cbrta.co.za**

C-BRTA to regulate better with OCAS



Plans are well underway to implement one of the C-BRTA's flagship projects, the Operator Compliance Accreditation System (OCAS). This 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 will be piloting OCAS in partnership with the South African Revenue Service in January 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 are 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 are expected to start in January 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?

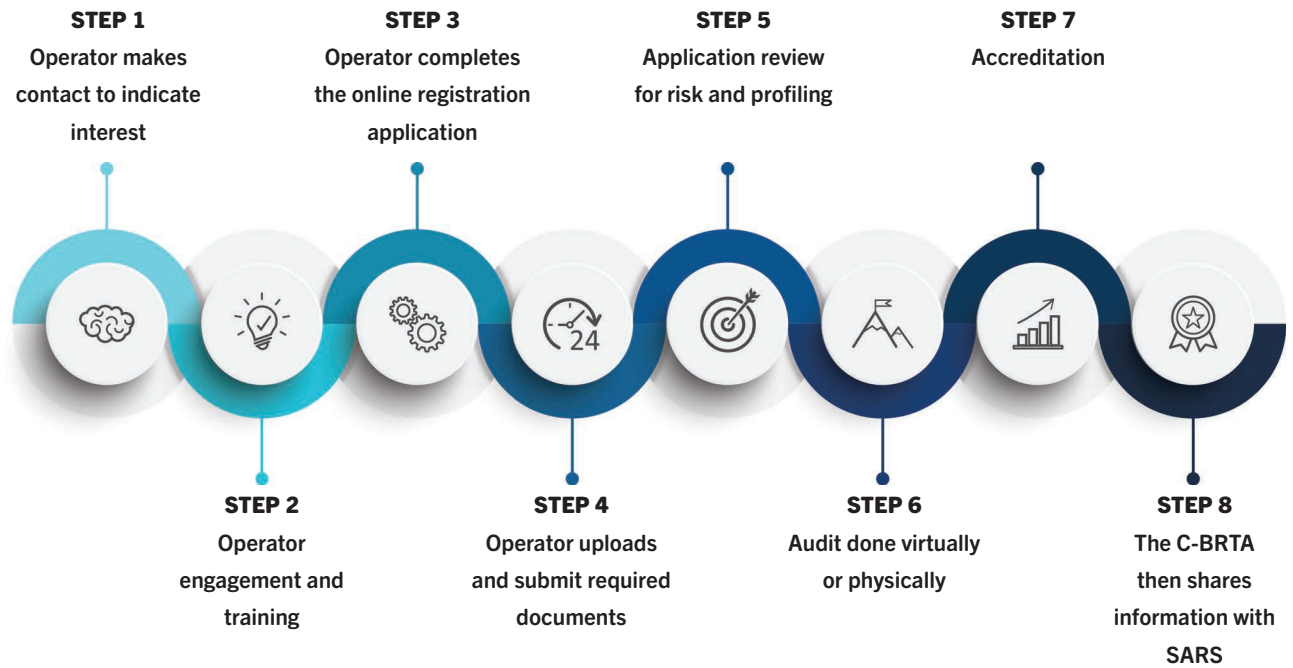
Cross-border transport operators interested in participating are required to make contact with the following officials who can be contacted through the details below:

- Ms Carol Madigage: Carol.Madigage@cbrta.co.za
- Ms Thethiwe Jika: Thethiwe.Jika@cbrta.co.za
- Mr Thoso Makibinyane: Makibinyane.Thoso@cbrta.co.za
- Mr Etiyel Chibira: Etiyel.Chibira@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 open from 18 November 2021. 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.



TRANSPORT AND TRADE FACILITATION WEBINAR

12 - 13 OCTOBER 2021

C-BRTA HOSTS a webinar to improve transport and trade in SADC

The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) in collaboration with other stakeholders in the transport and trade industry recently hosted a Trade and Transport webinar which drew the participation of public sector stakeholders from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community and the Southern African Development Community to engage on important matters affecting the cross-border trade and transport in the region.

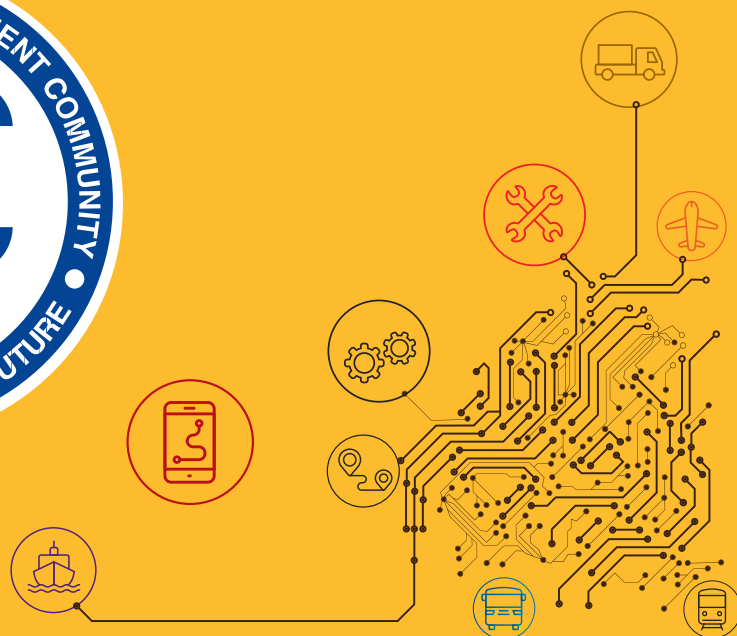
The Webinar was attended by ministries, departments and agencies responsible for transport, traffic and trade facilitation in the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite, regional secretariats and corridor management institutions, and experts from across the world.

The main purpose of the seminar was to afford these stakeholders an opportunity to discuss key issues which affect transport and trade in the Southern African development Community (SADC) region as well as to share information regarding interventions required to bring about efficiencies in the region. Furthermore, the webinar was also expected to further enhance cooperation and collaboration through

sharing of information amongst stakeholders in the region. It is precisely for this reason that the theme for the webinar was; “to drive change through collaboration and implementation of SMART cross-border trade and transport interventions” to transform the cross-border environment and improve intra-Africa trade and socio-economic development.”

The outcome of the two-day webinar was an action plan which served as a proposed recipe for solving transport and trade problems in the region as well as to bring efficiencies. This action plan presents the interventions which were identified and agreed by stakeholders, as the important interventions which would be promoted and prioritised towards improving the cross-border transport and trade environment in the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite and Africa at large. What could be highlighted from the many items from the action plan are the following;

- Accelerate Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area through practical programmes through accelerated implementation of regional road



network infrastructure projects across the region as well as harmonisation of transport and trade regulatory environment to improve trade and transport efficiency. A need for capacity building with regards to regulatory and law enforcement authorities in the region was also highlighted as one of the critical interventions.

- Border Infrastructure Improvement through infrastructure construction, expansion and maintenance as well as the implementation of One-Stop-Border Post (OSBP) for key border posts in the region.
- Encouraging relevant authorities to prioritise the maintenance of the regional road transport network to ensure reliable transportation of passengers and goods as well to promote sustainable and reliable funding for infrastructure investment without passing costs to transport operators and traders.
- Harmonising cross-border permit systems through the Integrated Cross Border Management Systems which is also known as Cross-Easy Permit application system to introduce digital cross-border road transport permits in the region.
- Promoting Industrial Development in the region through the development of Regional Industrial Policy instruments as well as to accelerate industrialization with a focus to

improve local production capacity within the region.

- Ensuring faster and better movement of passengers and goods through Integrated Implementation of the Authorised Economic Operator and Operator Compliance Accreditation System in the region.

These are some of the key areas which have been highlighted from the webinar action plan. This action plan serves as a commitment from the stakeholders, who were part of the webinar, to rally behind the need to promote transport and trade in the SADC region.

The Acting CEO of the C-BRTA, Lwazi Mboyi, said it is important for the Agency to host webinars such as this one because it serves as a communication platform that allows stakeholders to discuss issues that affect transport and trade in the region. "Improved communication between stakeholders is critical in driving change - not only in the region, but across the continent. Ongoing conversation between stakeholders at different governmental and agency levels is extremely important, not only to raise awareness around the issues being faced, but also to find the right solutions that will work across the region. Strategic partnerships, collaboration and improved communication are, therefore, very necessary to resolve the bottlenecks affecting cross-border transport and regional trade," he said.

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**