

The latest news, views, and announcements

## Important Travel Update for Port of Dover in April

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

#### Port of Dover

—

#### Bibury Coach Restrictions

—

#### International Regular Services

—

#### UK Coach Rally

—

#### Climate Change Risk Assessments

With the busy Easter period approaching, the Port of Dover has issued essential guidance for coach operators to ensure smooth processing and minimise delays. To manage high volumes of traffic, coaches must not arrive at the Port more than three hours before their designated sailing time. Any coach arriving earlier than this will be turned away.

On Friday 4th April and Friday 18th April, all coaches must first proceed to the designated Coach Processing Facility at Dover's Cruise Terminal before heading to the Ferry Terminal. Upon arrival, a sequencing process will be in place, and coaches will be issued a number. Any coach that arrives at the Ferry Terminal without this number will be required to leave.

The Cruise Terminal is located at postcode CT17 9DQ, and further details can be found using What3Words: [///column.table.honestly](https://www.what3words.com/uk/CT17-9DQ).

To ensure a smooth passage through Border Control, all passengers, including school groups, must have their passports open and ready for inspection. Bags of passports will not be accepted. Operators should also ensure that onboard toilet facilities have been emptied before arriving at the Port and that there is sufficient food and water available for passengers in case of delays.

Operators are encouraged to review the full guidance on the Port of Dover's website to stay informed about the necessary procedures and requirements for coach travel during this busy period. Visit [Easter Half Term Travel Information](#)

## Dates for Your Diary



### **1<sup>st</sup> April**

- Updated PSV Inspection Manual comes into effect.
- RSR Protocol comes into force (*see article*).

### **12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> April**

- UK Coach Rally, Blackpool

### **29<sup>th</sup> April**

- Online Members Meeting

## Proposed Coach Restrictions in Bibury

Bibury, one of the most picturesque villages in the Cotswolds, is the latest location where local authorities are considering restricting coach access. Following concerns from residents about high visitor numbers, a working group has been formed to explore measures to manage tourism. The first step involves altering parking bays to prevent coaches from waiting in the layby next to the Swan Bridge, with further restrictions on coach access being explored. Longer-term proposals include banning coaches from stopping in Bibury altogether.

The proposal to restrict coach access to Bibury follows similar moves in other Cotswolds villages, raising concerns that local authorities are increasingly limiting coach tourism. While managing visitor numbers is important, the suggested measures overlook the essential role coaches play in boosting the local economy and providing a sustainable, low-traffic way for visitors to enjoy these historic locations. Restricting coach access will inevitably reduce visitor numbers, directly impacting local businesses that rely on tourism and potentially leading to economic decline.

Instead of imposing outright restrictions, we invite local authorities to work with the UKCOA and the wider coach industry to explore alternative solutions. Designated coach parking, improved drop-off points, and better visitor management could help balance the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors while maintaining Bibury's status as a must-see destination.

# New Rules for International Coach Services



UK-based coach operators running international services will see changes come into effect from 1 April 2025 as the Regular and Special Regular (RSR) Protocol replaces existing arrangements under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). These updates primarily impact timetabled coach services and those carrying specific groups, such as school transport.

The RSR Protocol largely replicates the temporary TCA provisions, ensuring continued access for UK operators to EU markets and beyond. From April, UK operators will be able to run authorised RSR services to countries such as Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, and Ukraine, in addition to EU member states. While this transition is expected to be smooth, operators should be aware of the revised authorisation process through the DVSA (for GB-based operators) and the DVA (for Northern Ireland operators).

For services between Northern Ireland and Ireland, specific provisions will remain under the TCA. These include allowances for cabotage within Ireland for RSR services, transit rights for journeys passing through Ireland to reach Northern Ireland, and occasional services picking up and setting down passengers in Ireland.

Cabotage rules are also changing. From 1 April, EU operators will no longer be allowed to conduct cabotage operations in the UK. Similarly, UK operators remain restricted from undertaking cabotage in the EU, meaning services must start or end in the UK.

For operators running occasional services, no changes are expected, and existing requirements for Interbus Journey Forms or TCA Transit Forms will continue. However, non-liberalised occasional services (those not covered by Interbus or the TCA) will still require separate authorisation through the DVSA.

The Department for Transport has confirmed that existing RSR authorisations issued under the TCA will remain valid for their approved duration. Operators are encouraged to review the latest guidance on GOV.UK and ensure compliance with the new requirements ahead of the April deadline.

A copy of the RSR Protocol and a document explaining the purpose of the RSR Protocol treaty, known as an Explanatory Memorandum, can be found at [here](#).

12th & 13th  
April 2025



Contact  
[info@coachdisplays.co.uk](mailto:info@coachdisplays.co.uk)

## UK Coach Rally Returns to Blackpool for 2025

Blackpool is set to welcome the UK Coach Rally once again as the prestigious event returns for its 69th edition on 12th and 13th April 2025. This marks the sixth time the resort has hosted the rally, reinforcing its status as a key destination for the coaching industry.

The UKCOA has a long-standing relationship with the rally, and we're delighted to be exhibiting this year. We will have a coach on-site as our stand, providing the perfect space to meet members, industry partners, and anyone interested in learning more about what we do. We encourage everyone attending to come and visit us, have a chat, and find out more about how the UKCOA supports coach operators across the UK.

Taking place along Blackpool Promenade, the event promises an exciting weekend of competition, trade exhibitions, and networking opportunities. Coach operators from across the UK will come together to showcase their vehicles, skills, and dedication to the industry, with awards including Coach of the Year and Coach Driver of the Year up for grabs.

Event organisers have seen strong enthusiasm from coach companies eager to take part. "The UK Coach Rally is a celebration of the very best in the industry," said organiser Ann Cousins. "We're looking forward to welcoming participants and spectators for what is shaping up to be an incredible weekend."

Beyond the competition, the rally highlights the latest innovations in coach travel, with sustainability and technology playing an increasing role in shaping the sector's future. The event also provides a fantastic opportunity for operators, drivers, and industry professionals to connect, learn, and celebrate the vital role of coach travel in tourism and transport.

We're looking forward to catching up with members and welcoming new faces. Whether you're competing, exhibiting, or just coming to enjoy the weekend, make sure to stop by the UKCOA stand and say hello! With a record number of registrations already in place, the 2025 UK Coach Rally is set to be a must-attend event for the industry.

# Preparing for Climate Risks

The Department for Transport has released new guidance on climate risk assessments, helping businesses, including coach operators, prepare for the challenges posed by climate change. With increasing risks such as extreme weather, flooding, and rising temperatures, it is vital for the coach industry to assess vulnerabilities and take proactive measures to ensure long-term resilience.

Climate change is already impacting transport networks across the UK, leading to disruptions, increased maintenance costs, and safety concerns. By identifying risks and implementing preventive measures, coach operators can protect their fleets, passengers, and business operations from climate-related disruptions.

## Key Climate Risks for Coach Operators

- Extreme Heat
- Flooding and Heavy Rainfall
- Storms and High Winds
- Infrastructure Damage

The DfT recommends adopting a structured approach to climate risk assessment, which includes:

- **Identifying Risks:** Assess how climate events could impact your fleet, routes, and operations.
- **Planning Mitigation Measures:** Introduce practical steps such as alternative routes, fleet upgrades, and driver training for extreme weather conditions.
- **Monitoring and Reviewing:** Keep up to date with climate data and review risk assessments regularly to adapt to emerging threats.

By acting now, coach operators can enhance the resilience of their businesses, improve passenger safety, and reduce costly disruptions. To read the full guidance, visit:

[Climate change risk assessment: transport sector - GOV.UK](#)