

Köhlbrand Bridge: Port of Hamburg Remains Fully Operational for Oversized and Heavy Transport (GST)

Given the structural condition of the Köhlbrand Bridge, assessments by the Hamburg Port Authority (HPA) and external experts require a strict reduction in permissible loads to ensure continued operation of the bridge and to maintain, as far as possible, stable traffic flows for regular port operations.

- ➔ As of 1 May 2026, heavy transport movements requiring permits and exceeding 44 tonnes are no longer permitted to use the bridge.
- ➔ To support the implementation of these measures, an inter-agency crisis management team has been established, which is working in close coordination with industry associations and representatives of affected port companies.
- ➔ Infrastructure owners, competent authorities, construction site coordination, and external experts are working together in close and solution-focused collaboration.
- ➔ The shared objective of all parties involved is to maintain stable and efficient transport chains within the Port of Hamburg despite the necessary restrictions.

The port remains accessible for heavy transport vehicles despite the restrictions.

- Alternative routes for heavy transport are available within the port area; these can be assessed through the permit procedure and applied for via VEMAGS.
- **To optimise diversion routes**, short- and medium-term infrastructure measures are being implemented. Initial road adaptations, such as wider turning radii and repositioned central islands, to improve the navigability of the diversion routes have already been completed. The aim is to enable **standard transport** vehicles under 60 tonnes to operate **with as few restrictions as possible**, and to allow **long-term permits** to the greatest extent practicable.

- The Autobahn GmbH Northern Region is **making long-term permits available for oversized and heavy transport on the diversion routes** to the Köhlbrand Bridge. This reduces the administrative burden on port operators and hauliers, as recurring journeys no longer require individual permits.
- Many heavy transport operations at the Port of Hamburg are already handled via the **Hamburg Port Railway**. Approximately 70 cargo-handling facilities within the port have their own rail connections.
- The **waterway** enables the transport of particularly large and heavy goods **without the need for extensive special permits**. Compared with road transport, the waterway imposes virtually no restrictions on height or weight.
- **Inland and port shipping companies** are providing the necessary **transport capacity** for this purpose.
- **Terminal operators and shipping lines are continuously coordinating their capacities** to ensure smooth cargo handling.
- In the long term, the **waterway offers additional potential** for efficient and environmentally friendly heavy transport.

Current information
can be found at:



<https://www.hamburg-port-authority.de/de/hpa-360/koehlbrandbruecke>