



# Route planning

Planning a route properly is important. As with anything, good preparation is half the battle. **Always opt for the most optimal route**, because the shortest or fastest route is not necessarily the best.

Van den Bosch uses a route management system that keeps track of the truck's longitude and latitude. As a result, we always know the truck's exact GPS location. This exact GPS location displayed in the Trimble on-board computer as well. As soon as the route is deviated from, the planner sees this. Any exceptions must be reported by the driver.



## When deciding on the beset route, consider the following points:

- Rest moments: where will you take these and is there a suitable place along your route at the right time?
- Follow rules specific to the area.
- Beware of unwelcome “passengers”.
- Do not spend the night or take a break in unguarded parking zones in the following areas:
  - \* 150 km around Calais
  - \* The south and westside of Antwerp
  - \* 30 km around Gent
  - \* The south and westside of Brussel
- Keep this in mind the Rotterdam region as well.
- Check the state of the seals after every stop short- or long.
- Beware of tampering during traffic jams.
- Make use of checkpoints at crossings and country borders.
- Be extra aware in parking areas surrounding crossings.
- Immediately discuss with your planner if you must deviate from rules or when you suspect tampering.
- **Driving bans.** When planning your route, keep in mind that some countries ban driving on certain days. For instance, when leaving for Germany on a Sunday, it may be better to drive a longer stretch in the Netherlands because of Germany’s Sunday driving ban. Consult your planner.
- **Tolls/Maut.** In countries such as Belgium, Germany and France, toll must be paid for every kilometre on the motorway. As these costs can add up quickly, look for cheaper alternatives when possible. Consult your planner. There may be a good (free) alternative to a toll road.
- **Fuel consumption.** A truck naturally consumes more fuel on a mountainous road than on a flat stretch. Sometimes it may pay off to take a different route when loaded than when empty.
- **Fuel price.** In some cases, a minor deviation from the route allows for much cheaper refuelling. Use the latest refuelling instructions and consult your planner.