



1. What is ATP?

ATP is the multi-lateral agreement between Signatory Countries (Contracting Parties) for overland cross border carriage of perishable foodstuffs. It ensures that vehicles used for this carriage meet agreed international standards. In short the agreement details the following:

- Lays down standards for temperature controlled transport vehicles such as road vehicles, railway wagons and sea containers.
- Lists the foodstuffs to be carried in accordance with the ATP agreement and sets the warmest permissible temperatures for types of cargo.
- Specifies the tests to be carried out on such equipment to ensure they meet the required standards. The standards apply to the bodywork and refrigeration units
- Provides the system of certification for equipment that conforms to the standards
- Requires all Contracting Parties to recognise certificates issued in accordance with the agreement by the competent authorities of other signatory countries

Non-processed fruit and vegetables, and foodstuffs transported by air are not included within the scope of the agreement.

A full text of the ATP agreement is available from The Stationary Office or can be downloaded directly from the UNECE website: www.unece.org/trans/main/wp11/atp.html

2. ATP for Road Hauliers

It is illegal to transport perishable foodstuffs across international boundaries between countries that are signatories to the agreement unless the vehicle has an ATP certificate.

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan.

There are no national requirements for vehicles to meet ATP standards for the delivery of frozen foodstuffs within the UK.

3. Classification

The specialist equipment used for the carriage of perishable goods must comply with the appropriate standards of insulation and refrigeration as defined in the Agreement. Each

standard which may be insulated only, a combination of insulated with refrigeration, insulated with heating, or insulated with refrigeration plus heating is defined by a Classification.

A full list of Classifications can be found within the Agreement at Annex 1 'Definitions of and Standards for Special Equipment for the Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs'.

In short there are two Classifications for insulated equipment, six for total loss refrigerated, twelve for mechanical refrigerated and three for heated equipment. The most used Classifications are insulated and insulated mechanically refrigerated.

Each ATP Certificate issued states the Classification to which the equipment is approved.

4. Obtaining an ATP Certificate.

Many vehicles and trailers built for the carriage of perishable goods are Type Approved to the required standards and come with certification. The Type Approval certification lasts for 6 years.

After 6 years it is possible to renew the certification for periods of 3 years by having an in service 'K coefficient' test at an approved ATP 'Designated Station' authorised by any country that is a signatory to the agreement. A list of authorised centres is available at: www.unece.org/trans/main/wp11/teststations.

If you have a vehicle fitted with equipment that does not have an ATP certificate and no Type Approvals have been issued then the only option to obtain a certificate by having a 'one off' test at an approved test centre.

5. ATP Plate

Whilst it is acceptable to carry the ATP Certificate on international journeys, it is permissible for the vehicle to display an ATP Plate showing the details of the certificate. This plate is permanently fixed to the bodywork of the vehicle and is recognised by other Signatory Countries. The display of a Plate helps hauliers avoid delays due to misunderstanding or certificate loss. An ATP Plate is available from the relevant Designated Station. It is also acceptable to display the relevant information permanently displayed and fixed to the bodywork, in the form of lettering that meets the requirements on display lettering as specified in the Agreement.

6. One-Off In Service Test

If the vehicle refrigeration equipment is not Type Approved then it is possible to obtain a Certificate by having an in service 'one off' test which is carried out at an authorised Designated Station'. Whilst this test is specialised it is possible to carry out a few simple checks in order to help ensure that the vehicle is in the best possible condition to undergo the test.

- Vehicles must be in generally good condition.
- Doors and seals should be examined to ensure that daylight cannot be seen from inside the unit when the doors are closed.
- Door seals must be in good condition.
- There must be no holes in the bodywork