



# Germany set to raise HGV tolls

**T**he German cabinet has passed the fifth Federal Road Toll Act (Bundesfernstraßenmautgesetz). Starting January 1, 2019, there will be an increase in the tolls imposed on heavy goods vehicles (HGV).

The toll rates will be based on the maximum permissible weight as well as the number of axles for vehicles surpassing 18 tonnes.

In addition to the adaptation of toll rates, the

legislation will also see an extension of the toll roads.

According to CLECAT (the European association for forwarding, transport, logistics and Customs services), the transport and logistics industry has expressed serious concerns about the changes. The new legislation is expected to result in heavy financial burdens for the heavy-duty transportation industry.

## Australia kicks off review

**A**ustralia's government has launched an independent review into why some heavy vehicle operators are experiencing delays in gaining oversize overmass (OSOM) special road access permits.

The review, launched on June 29, 2018, follows industry concerns about the permit issuing process, which has seen some operators wait several

months for permits.

The review will consider what changes to the regulatory framework and processes are required to ensure permits can be issued within a reasonable timeframe.

Consultancy firm WSP Australia will undertake the review, scheduled for completion in October, with the assistance of an expert reference group.

## ESTA relaunches SERT

**E**STA, the European association of abnormal road transport and mobile cranes, is planning to relaunch its campaign for EU member states to adopt the European Best Practice Guidelines for Abnormal Road Transport.

First published in 2005, the European Commission transport directive included the Special European Registration for Trucks and Trailers (SERT).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rhenus-LBH partner up

Port services provider LBH Group is planning to form a joint venture with logistics service provider Rhenus in the European inland waterway shipping sector.

### SC&RA weather guide

The Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA) has published Severe Weather Guidelines for the crane and rigging industry. The guidelines, created for the association's members, outline job preparation before, during and after severe weather and include timelines for preparation work.

### Ontario goes private

Effective July 1, 2018, all superload permit moves in Ontario, which previously required provincial police escorts, require newly certified private pilot escorts through the Certified Superload Escort Program.

### Sarens forms JV

Sarens has formed a joint venture with LAM – Lyonel A. Makzume Shipping Agencies (Makzume) – to expand its operations in Turkey and neighbouring countries. Sarens Makzume will provide heavy lifting and specialised transport solutions to the industrial project industry in the region.

### SRT in Schnabel pact

SRT Transportation Solutions has announced an agreement with Contractors Cargo to manage, market and operate the CCRX 40010 20-axle Schnabel railcar with a 550-ton (489.9-tonne) capacity.

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