

The BAWTA Repatriation Scheme

The **Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992** state (amongst other things) the measures which all Tour Organisers are required to have in place both to protect consumers' money and to ensure their repatriation in the event of financial failure. Conscious of the impact which this has on many small and medium sized Coach Tour Operators, **The British Association of Wholesale Tour Agents (BAWTA)**, the trade association for Tour Wholesalers which was founded in 1987, offers a simple and effective means of complying with the law.

Do the Package Travel Regulations affect our business?

The answer is **"YES"** if you offer inclusive packages of more than 24 hours' duration which comprise more than one of the following: transport; accommodation; other tourist services.

How can we protect Consumers' money?

The Package Travel Regulations 17 to 21 state that one of three possible methods may be used:

Trust Accounts Placing clients' money in a Trust Account, separate from your own funds, where it remains safe until after you have provided their holiday.

Bonding Available through membership of a scheme such as those run by CPT, ABTA or AITO.

Insurance Available from some specialist travel insurance brokers.

What is the law on Repatriation?

Package Travel Regulation No.16 (1) states that you must "at all times be able to provide sufficient evidence of security for the refund of money paid over and for the repatriation of the consumer in the event of insolvency".

Schedule 1 (9) to Regulation No. 5 states that you must include in brochures, where relevant to the packages offered, information on "the arrangements for security for money paid over and for the repatriation of the consumer in the event of insolvency".

How can we provide Repatriation Cover?

The bonding and insurance options will usually include measures to bring home any holidaymakers who are abroad at the time of a Tour Organiser's failure. If you choose to protect clients' money using a Trust Account, then you need to make separate arrangements in order to comply with the law on repatriation. Joining the **BAWTA Repatriation Scheme** is a simple and effective way of doing this.

Who will know if we don't bother?

The Package Travel Regulations not only require you to make provision for your clients' repatriation but also to state in your brochures the measures which you have taken. Failure to do so is likely to lead to prosecution by your local Trading Standards Officers.

What is the BAWTA Repatriation Scheme?

For a small annual fee, the **BAWTA Repatriation Scheme** guarantees that, if you ceased trading

whilst you had passengers on tour abroad, they would be repatriated to their local area (but not directly to their homes) in the UK. Your claim, or a call for help from your passengers, would activate our Repatriation Procedure, and **BAWTA** would make all the necessary arrangements to bring your clients home. You do not, however, need to provide repatriation cover for tours where your coach has simply been chartered by another Tour Organiser, as financial protection and repatriation cover are their responsibility, not yours.

How does the BAWTA Repatriation Scheme work?

You simply register with the independent Administrators of the Scheme, pay the fee, and they will take care of the rest. You will be given the appropriate wording to include in your brochures, and documentation telling you what to do in the event of a claim.

What is the limit of the Scheme

The **BAWTA Repatriation Scheme** provides cover for a maximum of up to 6 coaches being outside the UK at any one time. Cover cannot be extended above this level.

How much does the BAWTA Repatriation Scheme cost?

See overleaf for details of the two options available. The cost per person is very small.

Do we have to use BAWTA Wholesalers for our tours?

Naturally, at least some of your tour arrangements must be purchased from a **BAWTA** member, but not necessarily all of them. For example, you can still book your favourite hotels or overnight stops direct if you prefer. Full details appear overleaf, together with a list of **BAWTA** members.

Why bother with Repatriation Cover?

You are committing a criminal offence if you do not adhere to the Regulations. Is it really worth taking the risk, when such a small amount can buy you peace of mind?

What should we do next?

If you have any queries, you can contact any **BAWTA** member to discuss them. Otherwise, simply complete the form overleaf (a photocopy is acceptable) and send it with the appropriate fee to the Scheme Administrator at the address shown.

The BAWTA Repatriation Scheme



Who are the Members of BAWTA?

Albatross Travel Group Ltd	+44 (0) 1732 879 100
Greatdays Holiday Services Ltd	+44 (0) 161 928 9966
Independent Coach Travel (Wholesaling) Ltd (ICT)	+44 (0) 1708 802 355
Norman Allen Group Travel Ltd	+44 (0) 1432 277 666
T4 Travel Ltd	+44 (0) 800 756 6611

BAWTA Repatriation Scheme Options and Fees

	One Year	Two Years
Option 1 All non UK tours arranged wholly or partially through BAWTA member(s)	£125	£250
Option 2 Some non UK tours arranged, and some not arranged, through BAWTA member(s)	£225	£450

BAWTA Repatriation Scheme Application for Membership

Company name _____
Address _____

PostCode _____ Telephone _____

Please give below your total figures for the year(s) to which this application applies. Exclude all day trips and any coaches which you charter to tour operators. Corresponding actual figures for the calendar year prior to the year in which cover is to commence should also be provided.

	Prior Year (actual)	1st Year (estimated)	2nd Year (envisaged)
Number of group tours outside the UK in each year specified below	_____	_____	_____
Number of such tours outside the UK arranged wholly or partially by a BAWTA member(s)	_____	_____	_____
Maximum number of coaches expected to be outside the UK on our own tours at one time (cover is for a maximum of 6)	_____	_____	_____

Do you run your own trust account Yes No

We note that if we have chosen **Option 2**, the following conditions apply:

1. Not fewer than two thirds of all our non-UK tours contracted and/or envisaged as at 1 January for the coming year, must be arranged through BAWTA members.
2. Where this application is a renewal of membership, not fewer than two thirds of all our non-UK tours actually operated in the 12 months to 31 December of the prior year, must have been arranged through BAWTA members.

We hereby apply to become members of the **BAWTA Repatriation Scheme** for the year(s) stated below.

We confirm that, in accordance with Regulation 20 of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992, we are holding or will hold in trust all monies received from consumers with whom we will contract in respect of coach tours which will depart in the year(s) specified. We understand that **BAWTA**, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to decline applications for **Repatriation Scheme** membership, and that we are not members until acceptance is confirmed, which may take up to 28 days.

We understand that any tours arranged by us either direct with suppliers or through any wholesale tour agent/operator which is not a member of BAWTA are not covered under the **BAWTA Repatriation Scheme** unless we have paid for **Option 2**, and that we must therefore make separate repatriation provisions for such tours.

We enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to the **British Association of Wholesale Tour Agents Ltd.**

We confirm that we are the licensed operator of all the coaches used for the tours covered (delete as applicable) Yes/No

Repatriation Scheme option applied for (please tick)

Cover is provided for a calendar year starting 1 January and ending 31 December.

Please state the year(s) for which cover is requested _____

Option 1 1 year 2 years **Option 2** 1 year 2 years

Signature _____ Print Name _____

Position _____ Date _____

Send to: BAWTA Repatriation Scheme Administrator,
Albert Goodman, Mary Street House, Mary Street, TAUNTON TA1 3NW
repatriationscheme@bawta.co.uk