



News Flash COVID-19

UPDATE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECTOR VALUE CHAIN - COVID-19 AMENDED LOCKDOWN REGULATION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ONLINE PORTAL

Please note this Newsflash is sent out to all abattoir, Associated Members, Provincial and National department as well as industry

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27 March 2020

Dear Abattoir Owners

Additional communication related to the Lockdown period and provision of essential services.

An **amendment of the lockdown regulations** was published on 26 March 2020 Nr 11067. Amidst the changes are the inclusion of harvesting and storage facilities essential to prevent the wastage of primary agricultural goods. (31)

And

Critical maintenance services (33)

(Annex 1)

A further **press release was issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza** emphasizing the importance of the Agriculture and Food Value chain. Outstanding matters related to refusal for transport, certification and movement of products are being addressed today.

(Annex 2)

In order to assist with the availability and stability of the food value chain as referred to, members are requested to continue providing price information for weekly reporting but also slaughter statistics as required.

The further **media release by the Department of Trade and Industry** further state that "No companies will be prejudiced by any delay in the system" with reference to the Biz portal registration process.

(Annex 3)

Please contact me for any enquiries and please ensure that documented requirements are put in place at registered facilities to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus whilst continuing with essential services.

Regards

Gerhard Neethling
082 551 7232
General Manager
Red Meat Abattoir Association

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS**DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

NO. R. 419

26 MARCH 2020

DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002: AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF SECTION 27(2)

I, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, designated under section 3 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), having declared a national state of disaster, published in Government Gazette No. 43096 on 15 March 2020, hereby in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002, after consultation with the relevant Cabinet members, made the Regulations in the Schedule.

**DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA, MP****MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

DATE: 26.03.2020

SCHEDULE**Definitions**

1. In these regulations, "the Regulations" means the regulations published by Government Notice No. 318 of 18 March 2020, as amended by Government Notice No. R. 398 of 25 March 2020.

Substitution of heading of the Regulations published in Government Notice No. R. 398 of 25 March 2020

2. The heading of the Regulations published in Government Notice No. R. 398 of 25 March 2020 is hereby substituted for the following heading:

" I, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, designated under section 3 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), having declared a national state of disaster, published in Government Gazette No. 43096 on 15 March 2020, hereby in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002, after consultation with the relevant Cabinet members, made the Regulations in the Schedule."

Amendment of regulation 11B of the Regulations

3. Regulation 11B of the Regulations is hereby amended by—
(a) substitution for subregulation (1) paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

"(b) During the lockdown, all businesses and other entities shall cease operations, except for any business or entity involved in the manufacturing, supply, or provision of an essential good or service, save where operations are provided from outside of the Republic or can be provided remotely by a person from their normal place of residence."; and

(b) the insertion of the following subregulations after subregulation (4):

"(4A) (a) All workplaces or premises must have care and maintenance that is essential to the prevention of the destruction or significant impairment of working areas, plant, machinery or inventory, or to permit orderly shutdown arrangements, on such conditions as may be issued by means of directions by the Cabinet members responsible for trade, industry and for employment and labour.

(b) Services in relation to international markets and which provide or maintain essential services as it relates to health, social support, government and financial services, which the Cabinet members responsible for health and trade and industry are satisfied are crucial to such services, may be provided for in directions issued by the said Cabinet members.

Amendment of regulation 11C of the Regulations

3. Regulation 11C of the Regulations is hereby amended by the substitution for subregulation of the following subregulation:

"(1) All commuter transport services including passenger rail services, bus services, taxi services, e-hailing services, maritime and air passenger transport are prohibited, except bus services, taxi services, e-hailing services and private motor vehicles for purposes of rendering essential services, obtaining essential goods, seeking medical attention, funeral services and to receive payment of grants: Provided that—

(a) bus services, taxi services and e-hailing services shall not carry more than 50% of the licensed capacity; and

(b) private vehicles shall not carry more than 60% of the licensed capacity, and that all directions in respect of hygienic conditions and the limitation of exposure of persons to COVID-19, are adhered to."

Deletion of regulation 11E of the Regulations

4. Regulation 11E of the Regulations is hereby deleted.

Amendment of Annexure A to the Regulations

5. Annexure A to the Regulations is hereby amended by the substitution for the word "warrant" wherever it appears with the word "order"

Amendment of Annexure B to the Regulations

6. Annexure B to the Regulations is hereby amended by—
- (a) the insertion of the following subparagraphs under paragraph 2 of Part A:
- "(iv) Products for the care of babies and toddlers.
 - (v) Personal toiletries, including haircare, body and face washes, roll-ons, deodorants, toothpaste.";
- (b) the substitution for paragraph 1 of Part B of the following paragraph:
- "1. Medical, Health (including Mental Health), Laboratory and Medical services and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases;"
- (c) the substitution for paragraph 3 of Part B of the following paragraph:
- "3. Financial services necessary to maintain the functioning of the banking and payments environment, including the JSE and similar exchanges, as well as insurance services and medical scheme administration;"
- (d) the substitution for paragraph 6 of Part B of the following paragraph:
- "6. Electricity (including vital demand management services), water, gas and fuel production, supply and maintenance;" and
- (e) the addition of the following paragraphs after paragraph 28 of Part B:
- "29. Tow trucks and vehicle recovery services;
 - 30. Call centres necessary to provide health, safety, social support, government and financial services;
 - 31. Harvesting and storage activities essential to prevent the wastage of primary agricultural goods;
 - 32. Implementation of payroll systems to the extent that such arrangement has not been made for the lockdown, to ensure timeous payments to workers; and
 - 33. Critical maintenance services which cannot be delayed for more than 21 days and are essential to resume operations after the lockdown."

Amendment of Annexure D to the Regulations

7. Annexure D to the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of subparagraph (iiiA) after subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (c):

"(iiiA) restaurants;"

Annex 2



Media Statement

26 March 2020

UPDATE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECTOR VALUE CHAIN - COVID-19

The agriculture and food supply sector remains a vital cog during this period. In terms of the Amended Regulation No. 398 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002, the sector responsible for food security has been declared as essential. This includes the harvesting and storage of agricultural commodities. This Regulation re-emphasises that the entire food value chain, from farm-related operations, agro-processing and food manufacturing, logistics and related services, wholesale and retail services, and all support functions that ensure efficient delivery of the agro-food system have to be functional to ensure that there is access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza reiterates that there is no need for panic buying of food. This type of buying only serves to create distortions and artificial scarcities within the food supply sector.

The intervention measures that government and the agricultural food value chain have put in place are:

1. Monitor availability and stability of food supply – the monitoring is done via an End-to-End Agricultural value chain Tracker, which has a 24 to 48 hour reporting cycle. The Department will release status regular updates in relation to these monitoring activities. In case there are extreme cases where the security of supply of staple commodities is threatened, the Department will recommend to the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition to impose appropriate export restrictions.
2. Ensure that critical agricultural production activities such as harvesting continue uninterrupted – this is done under strict prescripts as provided for in Regulation No. 398 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 and Department of Health COVID-19 hygiene protocol. The safety of our farmers and farmworkers on and off work is very important to us.

For all queries relating to matters relating to COVID-19 within the sector, kindly contact the Department at COVID-19info@dalrrd.gov.za or phone the following toll free number 086 024 6640.

For media inquiries please contact the Media Liaison Officer Mr Reggie Ngcobo on 0828832458

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

END

Annex 3

MEDIA RELEASE:

DATE: 26 MARCH 2020

ONLINE BIZPORTAL TO REGISTER BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICE DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD

As of 14h00 this afternoon, more than 10 000 companies have already registered as providers of essential goods and services. Most of these have been in food supply, medical and pharmaceutical services and transport services. We will provide further update on communication platforms as to the number of registered businesses during the lockdown period.

The regulations issued by the Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs provide for a form or certificate to be issued by companies who provide essential services to their workers, to be carried when traveling to and from work

Many companies have requested that they log their details with Government during the lockdown period.

We have thus introduced a portal at the website run by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) to log company details only where companies comply with the regulations issued by the Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on 25 March 2020 in Government Notice 398 of Government Gazette No. 43148 (“lockdown regulations”).

The website can be found at www.bizportal.gov.za.

The system is currently running with full functionality. We ask that companies be patient through the registration process, as there are large volumes presently being experienced. No companies will be prejudiced by any delay in the system. The service will continue to run tomorrow and beyond and it is not a requirement that companies complete registration before the lockdown begins.

Only companies permitted in terms of the lockdown regulations will be allowed to continue operating through the period. Possession of a CIPC certificate does not constitute permission to operate during the lockdown. Companies must be guided by the regulation as to whether their business operations constitute essential services. Any misrepresentation of information is a criminal offence and will be prosecuted. Already we have seen companies selling on-premise consumption of alcohol registering through the platform. Other examples include non-essential grooming for pets. We will advise these companies that this is not permitted, and may take further action if required.

Companies may issue letters to their workers independent of the registration process, which must be done ahead of the lockdown at midnight tonight.

CIPC officials who are administering the www.bizportal.gov.za

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Issued by: The Department of Trade and Industry

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