

## COVID-19 New Presidential Provisions

Newsletter # 69/ March 2020

On Sunday, March 29, 2020, the **New Presidential Provisions** during the State of Public Calamity were published in the Official Gazette, which will come into effect on Monday, March 30, 2020. These provisions contain the following restrictive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

### **Restriction on freedom of movement (curfew)**

Freedom of movement is restricted between 4:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., until Sunday, April 12, 2020. Circulation outside these hours is permitted.

### **Suspension of work and activities in the public and private sectors**

Work and activities are suspended until Sunday, April 12, 2020, except for the following entities, employees and public officials:

- a. Personnel of the Presidency;
- b. The superior authority of each State entity;
- c. Personnel incorporated to attend the state of Public Calamity;
- d. Health, social assistance and State security personnel;
- e. Personnel for tax collection, customs, migration, port and airport system.
- f. Staff of the Consumer Care and Assistance Directorate -DIACO-;
- g. Personnel of any other essential and indispensable public service.

In any case, work from home or home office should be allowed and encouraged, providing the necessary elements for its development.

### **Business continuity with restrictions**

The following entities must continue their activities without a closing option:

- a. Hospitals, medical clinics, and health centers, as well as public hygiene and sanitation services;
- b. Water supply services;
- c. Public security services;
- d. Private security services and transport companies;
- e. Aircraft services;
- f. Telecommunications, telegraphic and mail services;
- g. National Port and Airport System;
- h. Heavy cargo transport;

- i. Food industry (including complementary activities: transport, loading, unloading, storage, packaging, distribution, conservation and related);
- j. Pharmaceutical industry;
- k. Industry of products for health and personal hygiene; and,
- l. Energy industry.

The entities described are responsible for adjusting or modifying the schedules of their staff in accordance with the time restrictions. However, in the event that temporary changes in working hours cannot be made, employers must provide personnel with transportation authorized by the Ministry of Economy ("MINECO").

#### **Time restricted activities**

All establishments or services must be CLOSED 24 hours a day. Exceptions are made for the following:

- a. Within the hours of 4:00 to 16:00 hours:
  - Supermarkets, grocery stores and neighborhood shops;
  - Restaurants providing home delivery service or providing service by drive-thru window;
  - Hotels and their corresponding food service;
  - Banks, finance companies, insurance companies and cooperatives using counters, drive-thru service or other special procedures;
  - Agricultural, livestock, phytozoosanitary and hydrobiological resources activities;
  - Farming activities;
  - Transportation of humanitarian aid.
- b. Within the hours of 4:00 to 13:00
  - Municipal markets; and,
  - Cantonal markets.
- c. Within the hours of 15:00 to 4:00
  - The sale and consumption of alcoholic and fermented beverages is prohibited.

#### **Suspension of activities**

The following activities are suspended:

- a. Events of all types and any number of people;
- a. Sports, cultural and social activities;
- b. Operation of collective public transport;
- c. Visits to prisons;
- d. Visits in institutions for the care of the elderly or senior citizens
- e. The hoarding of basic necessities, medicines, fuel or any type or class of goods that are necessary to combat the pandemic is prohibited;
- f. Shopping centers, related or similar are closed; and,

- g. Face-to-face religious celebrations are suspended.

**Border closure**

The closure of air, land and sea borders throughout the national territory is established, with the following exceptions:

- a. Entry of Guatemalans
  - Guatemalans; permanent residents; diplomatic corps accredited in the country; exceptional cases with the approval of the governing body of health and the Ministry of Government are allowed to enter the country.
- b. Departure of foreigners
  - Foreigners are allowed to leave the territory of the Republic.
- c. Import and export transport
  - The transport of mail and air, sea and land cargo for import and export is allowed.

Any person entering Guatemalan territory must undergo compulsory quarantine without exception.

**Authorization by MINECO**

The entities that are authorized to operate by the MINECO, may continue to operate observing the time restrictions (from 4:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.) as long as they comply with the requirement of completing a form with information of their employees that continue to mobilize. This form may be submitted no later than Friday, April 3, 2020.

Information on the requirement to be met by companies during the State of Calamity can be found at the following [link](#).

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