

MOVING TOWARDS LOCKDOWN LEVEL 3

Dear everyone

Last night the President gave South Africans an insight into the coming weeks, in so far as the changes to the lockdown level is concerned, and the further opening up of economic and business activity.

Unfortunately, the news was less concrete than many of us were expecting, but there were a few indications that were given about the road ahead. The points listed below are based on (i) what was stated in the President's speech, (ii) the announcement today about the immediate opening of e-commerce and (iii) the 'Framework for Public Consultation - Schedule of Services' proposed for different alert levels, published on 24 April.

Statements in the President's speech

- Announcements of expansion of Level 4 activities - to be made over the next few days
 - retail and E-commerce
 - reducing restrictions on exercise
- By end May most of the country to be placed on L3 but "hotspots" to remain at L4
 - Consultations and planning to take place in the meantime

E-commerce

- Buying and selling of all retail goods is immediately permitted, except liquor and tobacco products
- A detailed and strict set of health & safety protocols for all retailers using e-commerce platforms and delivery & courier services
- Prominence to be given to the sale of South African made products
- Retailers must provide written guidelines for customers on how to safely disinfect their goods before use
- All goods to be sanitised before leaving the depot/warehouse
- Delivery & courier personnel must wear a cloth mask and keep 1.5m distance from other delivery staff and customers
- Customers are required to wear cloth masks when taking delivery of goods and must remain 1.5m from the delivery person
- Customers are encouraged to sanitise goods after delivery
- These Directions to remain in force for the duration of alert Level 4

Proposed (New) Activities in Level 3

Manufacturing

- Automotive manufacturing including components, scaling up from 50% to 100% employment
- Stationary production scaling up from 50% to 100% employment
- Cement & other construction scaling up from 50% to 100% employment
- Steel and other metal manufacturing scaling up in phases to 100% employment
- Clothing, textiles and footwear manufacturing scaling up from 30% to 100% employment
- Other chemicals manufacturing scaling up in phases to 100% employment

- All other manufacturing scaling up to 50% employment

Construction & related services

- Commercial building projects

Wholesale & retail trade

- All books (not only educational books)
- All household appliances
- All clothing, home textiles and footwear (not only winter clothing...)
- Off premises consumption of alcohol, subject to limited hours (Mon – Wed 08:00 to 12:00), social distancing and quantitative restrictions. No consumption on premises.

Information & communication services

- Postal services to transport retail goods

Financial and business services

- Commercial real estate permitted
- Rental of motor vehicles, machinery & equipment, & personnel to support other L3 services
- Other professional services, only where work-from-home is not possible and only to support other L3 services

Transport, storage & communication services

- Limited domestic air travel, with restriction on number of flights per day, & authorisation based on reason for travel

Mining & quarrying

- All mining scaling up from 50% to 100% employment

Private households employment

- To support all L3 personnel
- Gardening & swimming pool services

Public administration, government services & other arms of the state

- Issuing of marriage certificates (but public weddings are not permitted!?)

Health, social & personal services

- Recycling of glass, paper, metal etc. permitted at full capacity, up from 50%
- Laundry & dry-cleaning services

Note: all of the above L3 activities are proposals as published on 24 April – the final list of new permitted services and the exact commencement date of L3, will be gazetted in due course.

STAY SAFE AND KEEP OTHERS SAFE