

Alert Level 3 – Summary of Activities

Dear everyone,

The last week has been quite a roller-coaster ride since the President's speech on 24th May. A draft Regulation for L3 activities and services was circulated whereafter two media briefings were postponed, amid much speculation. The final Gazette, which was published on 28 May, as well as the lengthy media briefing by the two Ministers, have finally clarified (?) what Alert Level 3 is all about. The shift from L4 to L3 is a significant one indeed.

Sadly, there are still a few sectors / industries that will still be unable to operate, or their activities will still be severely restricted in L3, and this is likely to have continuing devastating consequences for these businesses.

Introduction

- The immediately noticeable difference in the amended Regulations is the absence of lengthy schedules for each industrial sector, listing those services/businesses that can open. Except for a short list of exclusions (businesses which still may not open), and certain other specified conditions and restrictions, all economic activity can resume from 1 June 2020.
- Although various rumours circulated up to the publication of the Regulations, the entire country will move to L3 on 01 June 2020.

Significant changes

- The curfew has been lifted
- Time-based restrictions on all road public transport have been removed
- Learners returning to school (Gr 7 and 12 initially) will require a certificate or permit to travel to and from school, issued by the school Principal
- Permits for employees to travel to and from work are no longer required EXCEPT where the person is travelling between provinces, metros & districts, and hotspots, which requires a permit used for L4
- The exercise time limits have largely been removed – exercise is permitted between 06:00 & 18:00
- Alcohol can now be purchased, but subject to limitations
- Customers may now collect take-away food/drink from restaurants and other food/drink outlets
- Domestic work is permitted

Movement of people

- People are still confined to their place of residence and may only leave it for these purposes:
 - travel to & from work, and perform any service permitted in L3
 - buy goods or obtain services, except those excluded (see below)
 - move children as allowed
 - exercise, provided it is not in organised groups (adhere to health protocols & social distancing)
 - attend a place of worship within your own province
 - attend a school or learning institution that is open
- People in public places, using public transport or entering any public building, place or premises, must wear a face mask or other item that covers their nose & mouth
- Movement between provinces, metros, districts and hotspots is prohibited, except for
 - people performing work permitted in L3; in such a case they need a Permit from their employer
 - people travelling to a new place of residence or caring for an immediate family member (need an affidavit)

- learners or students commuting to and from schools or institutions, during the hours when they are permitted to operate
- attendance at funerals
- transporting mortal remains
- obtaining medical treatment
- people returning to their place of residence from an isolation or quarantine facility
- transportation of goods and services

Movement of children

- Between co-holders of parental responsibilities is permitted but subject to detailed requirements, which include obtaining a magistrate's permit, etc.
- Any learner or student must be issued with a certificate (specific format) issued by the school Principal, for the purposes of travel to and from the school/institution
 - certificate must contain name & address of school or institute of higher learning & the particulars of the child
- Person (public transport) transporting learners or students to and from school must have a permit issue by the school Principal

Attendance at funerals

- Limited to 50 people and still subject to previously gazetted restrictions applicable in Alert L4 (very detailed)
- Movement across districts, metros or provinces is subject to being a specified relative of the deceased person
- Movement to or from an Alert Level 4 or 5 area requires a permit
- Various other conditions contained in the Regulations

Evictions are still prohibited, subject to certain provisions

Gatherings

- All gatherings prohibited except:
 - funerals
 - faith-based institutions, limited to 50 or less
 - at a workplace for work purposes
 - agricultural auctions
 - professional non-contact sports matches (e.g. tennis, golf), which may only include players, match officials, medical & TV crew & journalists
- Where illegal gathering takes place
 - people gathered to be requested to disperse immediately
 - if they refuse, they may be arrested and detained

Initiation practices

- These are prohibited for the duration of the National State of Disaster

Places & premises closed to the public

- Places for cultural, sporting, entertainment, leisure, exhibitional, etc. activities remain closed including:
 - gyms & fitness centres
 - sports grounds & swimming pools except for training of professional athletes & for professional non-contact sports matches
 - flea markets, fetes, bazaars, night clubs, casinos
 - hotels, lodges, B&Bs, timeshare resorts, guest houses, etc. except for :
 - remaining tourists confined to such places
 - persons for work purposes
 - persons in quarantine & isolation
 - private homes for paid leisure accommodation
 - private & public game reserves except those accommodating remaining tourists
 - conference facilities
 - on-consumption (liquor) premises including bars, taverns & shebeens, except as provided
 - theatres & cinemas and museums, beaches and public parks
- Tourist attractions & entertainment venues remain closed except to provide self-drive excursion activities (scenic drives, e.g. private and public game farms but no accommodation)

Controlled visits by the public

- All visits to the following places are not permitted, except where indicated otherwise by the relevant Minister :
 - correctional centres, detention facilities, SAPS holding cells, health establishments (hospitals, etc. – unless to receive treatment or medication), and older person residential facilities

Public transport

- No restriction on operating hours
- Capacity restrictions still apply
- 4 domestic airports will open (Lanseria, OR Tambo, CT Int Airport & King Shaka Int Airport) for domestic passengers flights but not for recreation, leisure or tourism

Sale, dispensing and transport of liquor

- Transportation of liquor is permitted
- Sale of liquor at any licenced premises is permitted (or through e-commerce) from Monday to Thursday from 09:00 and 17:00 (not on Public Holidays, & Fri – Sunday)
- Consumption at place of sale is prohibited
- Selling of liquor for take-away in sealed bottles/cans, even by a restaurant is permitted

Tobacco, e-cigarettes, etc.

- Sale of these products is still prohibited but can be exported

Operation of economic sectors

- All businesses and other entities may operate except for those set out in Table 2
- Businesses with >100 employees to stagger working hours where possible
- All health protocols to be adhered to
- Construction, manufacturing, business & financial services firms with >500 employees to implement appropriate sector/workplace H&S arrangements to:
 - provide transport for workers to site or consider staggered shifts
 - stagger return to work of employees
 - screen employees daily
 - submit screening data to the D-G: Health

Compliance officers

- Industries, businesses and entities (private & public) to designate a COVID-19 compliance officer to oversee
 - implementation of the H&S Plan
 - adherence to all hygiene & health protocols and standards
 - develop plans for phased in return to work and manage their implementation

TABLE 2 – ALERT LEVEL 3 EXCLUSIONS

- All persons should work from home where possible
- Performing work away from home subject to strict health protocols & social distancing

The following activities are excluded i.e. cannot operate / take place:

- Consumption of food and beverages in/at place of sale including restaurants, retail outlets, convenience stores & informal traders
 - except for delivery or collection of food
- On-site liquor consumption
- Short term home-sharing (e.g. AirBnB), letting, leasing, rental for leisure purposes
- Accommodation for recreation
- Domestic passenger air travel for recreation (can fly for business)
- Conferences & events including sport (except where provided for in the Regulations)
 - Personal care services - hairdressing, beauty treatments, make-up & nail salons, piercing & tattoo parlours – except where directions are issued by relevant Minister, as safe to resume under specified conditions (consultations thereon are currently taking place)
- Exclusions relating to public transport & education are in directions issued by the relevant Ministers
- Tourist attractions, casinos and entertainment activities, except those categories identified by the relevant Minister, in Directions, as safe to resume under specified conditions

We look forward to the many businesses who have been closed since 27 March, being able to start up again, earn incomes and continue to employ its employees.

Please contact us if you have any queries about your or your business's activities in Alert Level 3.

BUY LOCAL

STAY SAFE AND KEEP OTHERS SAFE