

Staying afloat

Essential Services Registration Link and advice for South African small to medium business.

N L B U S I N E S S S E R V I C E S

B O O K K E E P E R N L @ G M A I L . C O M



Essential Services

The President of South Africa has declared a National Lockdown from 26 March 2020 until 16 April 2020. During that period only businesses that provide essential services are allowed to open and trade.

Those businesses need to apply to for a certificate in order to trade. Supplying **incorrect information is a criminal offense and will lead to prosecution.**

All enterprises operating within the borders of the Republic of South Africa are expected to be closed during the lockdown period. Only enterprises which produce and/or provide, and/or distribute goods and services listed below are exempted from the restrictions contemplated in the regulation issued in terms of the Disaster Management Act.

Note, absolute minimum staff necessary to operate safely.

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The list

Categories of essential services shall be confined to the following services: (as amended by Gazette 43168 of 26 March 2020 and Gazette 43199 of 2 April 2020)

- **Medical**, Health (including Mental Health), Laboratory and Medical services and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases;
- **Disaster Management**, Fire Prevention, Fire Fighting and Emergency services;
- 3.1 (a) The following services necessary to maintain the functioning of a financial system as defined in section 1(1) of the **Financial Sector Regulation Act**, only when the operation of a place of business or entity is necessary to continue to perform those services: (i) the banking environment (including the operations of mutual banks, cooperative banks, co-operative financial institutions and the Postbank); (ii) the payments environment; (iii) the financial markets (including market infrastructures licensed under the Financial Markets Act, 2012 (Act No. 19 of 2012)); (iv) the insurance environment; (v) the savings and investment environment; (vi) pension fund administration; (vii) outsourced administration; (viii) medical schemes administration; and (ix) additional services designated in terms of regulation 11B(4A)(c) (i). (b) The services listed in paragraph (a) may not be construed to include debt collection services. 3.2 Services necessary for the provision of social grants designated in terms of regulation 11B(4A)(c) (ii).";
- 4. Production and sale of the goods listed in category A, above;
- 5. **Grocery stores** and wholesale produce markets, including spaza shops and informal food traders, with written permission from a municipal authority to operate being required in respect of informal food traders;
- 6. **Electricity** (including vital demand management services), **water gas** and fuel production, supply and maintenance;
- 7. **Critical jobs for essential government services** as determined by Head of National or Provincial Departments in accordance with the guidance of the Department of Public Service and Administration, including Social Grant Payments and pension payments;

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- 8. **Birth and death certificates**, and replacement identification documents;
- 9. Essential **municipal services**;
- 10. **Care services and social relief** of distress provided to older persons, mentally ill, persons with disabilities, the sick, and children;
- 11. **Funeral** and cremation services, including mortuaries services and the transportation of mortal remains;
- 12. **Wildlife Management**, Anti-poaching, Animal Care and Veterinary services;
- 13. **Newspaper**, broadcasting and telecommunication infrastructure and services, including call centres critical for the support of such services;
- 14. Production and sale of any **chemicals**, hygiene products, pharmaceuticals for the medical or retail sector;
- 15. **Cleaning, sanitation, pest control, sewerage, waste and refuse removal services**;
- 16. Services related to the **essential functioning of courts**, judicial officers, the Master of the High Court, Sheriffs and legal practitioners required for those services;
- 17. Essential **SARS** services defined by the Commissioner of SARS;
- 18. **Police**, peace officers, traffic officers, military medical personnel and soldiers, correctional services officials and traffic management services;
- 19. **Postal services** and courier services related to transport of medical products;
- 20. Private **security services**;
- 21. **Air-traffic Navigation**, Civil Aviation Authority, air charters, Cargo Shipping and dockyard services;
- 22. **Gold**, gold refinery, coal and essential mining;
- 23. **Accommodation** used for persons rendering essential services, quarantine, isolation and the lockdown;
- 24. Production, manufacturing, supply, logistics, transport, delivery, critical maintenance and repair in relation to the **rendering of essential services** including components and equipment;
- 25. **Transport services** for persons rendering essential services and goods, and transportation of patients;
- 26. Services rendered by the Executive, members of **Parliament**, Members of the Provincial Legislature, Members of Local Councils, the Judiciary, traditional leaders and National Office Bearers. of Political Parties represented in Parliament;

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- 27. **Commissioners of the South African Human Rights Commission**, Gender Commission, and the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities, and the Public Protector and Deputy Public Protector; and
- 28. **Transport and logistics** in respect of cargo and goods as set out in Part A to neighbouring countries;
- 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."

What do we need?

1. CIPC Registered Business
2. Identity number of at least one register Director
3. Company email address
4. Company contact number
5. Follow the link <https://bizportal.gov.za/>
6. Sole Proprietors will need to obtain a permit from their respective sectors

A Clarification

We would like to clarify that the registration portal is only for registered companies operating in South Africa. Healthcare professionals registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, sole proprietors who provide essential goods and services (like spaza shops), and small-scale farmers will not have to register through the Bizportal

A warning

Only companies, spaza shops, healthcare professionals and farmers 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.

I am available to assist should you need and further clarification. Email me at Natalie@NLBus.co.za

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