



## **HEAD OFFICE**

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### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

#### **FORESTRY AND CERTAIN FOREST PRODUCTS INCLUDED AS ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES**

Please be advised that in terms of government Notice No. 318 of 18 March, as amended by Notice Nos. 398, 419 and 446 of 25 March, 26 March and 2 April respectively, all forestry operations and certain forest products, are deemed to be essential goods and services and as such, are allowed to continue to operate during the national lock down period.

The Minister of Environment Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy MP, has re-affirmed this in the national live broadcasts, which took place on 24 March and 3 April 2020.

In terms of essential forestry operations, these include but are not limited to company and external suppliers engaged in:

- Nursery operations
- Establishment (planting) operations
- Silviculture (weeding, tending, thinning and pruning)
- Harvesting (felling and short-haul) operations
- Fire services including prevention, detection and control (spraying and burning of tracer belts and firebreaks, and ground and aerial combatting of wildfires)
- Delivery of timber and bark to markets (long-haul by road and rail)

In terms of essential forest product operations and **where these are used in or are ancillary to, the production, packaging and distribution of food, medicinal and hygiene products, newspapers or energy generation**, domestically or internationally, these include but are not limited to company and external suppliers, engaged in the production or provision of:

- Pulp (dissolving and kraft)
- Paper and packing (including recycled paper and newsprint)
- Sawn timber
- Plywood and other engineered wood products
- Board products
- Poles
- Woodchips
- Shavings and sawdust
- Wood pellets
- Bark derived products
- Essential oils and resins

Please note that the onus is on the companies producing such products, to show that their production is used in or is ancillary to the production, packaging and distribution of food, medicinal and hygiene products, newspapers or energy generation. This can also be in the form of letters from your respective clients or markets, confirming this. Please note further that where the production of an essential product, is dependent on the production of non-essential products, both activities may continue. For example, a sawmill which produces wood shavings for the poultry market or power as a co-product of production of sawtimber, may continue to produce the sawtimber, so as to also be able to produce the essential products for poultry and energy but they may not sell that sawtimber, unless it is for or ancillary to other essential products or services. Similarly a sawmill producing sawtimber for pallets (essential product) as part of a range of other sawtimber products, can continue to produce all sawtimber but they should not sell the other sawtimber, which is not destined for pallets or other essential products. In both these examples, the sawtimber not destined for essential products, should be warehoused for when the lock down is lifted or should the regulations be amended, to include the sale of non-essential products during the lock down.

Please note further that where such goods and services are in support of essential services in other countries (e.g. exported products), that in terms of amended regulation 11B(4A)(b), these are also allowed to continue to be produced and exported.

The following points in Annexure B regulation 11 A, support the content of this letter in respect of services and products, in the Forestry Sector. The text in bold shows **products or services in which timber derived products are used** domestically or internationally, directly or in which they are ancillary.

## A. Goods

### 1. Food

- (i) Any **food product**, including non-alcoholic beverages,
- (iii) **Chemicals, packaging and ancillary products used in the production of any food product**

### 2. Cleaning and hygiene products

- (i) **Toilet paper, sanitary pads, sanitary tampons**, condoms
- (ii) Hand sanitiser, disinfectants, soap, alcohol for industrial use, **household cleaning products and personal protective equipment...**
- (iii) **Chemicals, packaging and ancillary products used in the production of any of the above**
- (iv) **Products for the care of babies toddlers**
- (v) **Personal toiletries** including haircare, body and face washes, roll-ons, deodorants, **toothpaste**

### 3. Medical

- (i) **Medical and Hospital Supplies, medicine, equipment and personal protective equipment...**
- (vi) **Chemicals, packaging and ancillary products used in the production of any of the above**

4. **Fuel** including coal, **wood** or gas

5. Basic good including airtime and **electricity** and the withdrawal of cash

## B. Services

1. **Medical**, Health (including Mental Health), Laboratory and **Medical Services** and the National Institute of Communicable Diseases
2. Disaster management, **Fire Prevention**, **Fire Fighting** and Emergency services
4. **Production and the sale of the goods listed in Category A**, above
6. **Electricity** (including vital demand management services), **water**, gas and **fuel production, supply and maintenance**
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 and pharmaceuticals**, for the medical or retail sector
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.
28. **Transport and logistics** in respect of **cargo and goods** as set out in Part A to **neighbouring countries**
31. **Harvesting and storage activities** essential to prevent the wastage of **primary agricultural goods**
33. **Critical maintenance services** which **cannot be delayed for more than 21 days** and are **essential to resume operations after the lockdown**

Enquiries in this regard, can be directed to the Executive Director of Forestry South Africa, at the email addresses provided above. Alternatively, he can be contacted via Whatsapp or Telegram, on 082 808 0425.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Peter  
Executive Director

4 April 2020