

Friday, 03 April 2020

## **SOUTH AFRICA COVID-19 LOCKDOWN EFFECTIVE 26 MARCH - 16 APRIL 2020**

### **TRANSPORTATION OF CARGO UPDATE**

Dear Valued client

As the situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, the transport and logistics industry is being met with daily amendments to legislation that directly impacts our services and operating conditions.

Whilst we are mindful of the fact that this can be frustrating to our clients, it is necessary for MSC to take precautions in order to ensure that the initiatives of government and the restrictions imposed by the lockdown are respected and adhered to.

In order to uphold our social responsibility during this crisis, it always remains our duty to fully comply with national law whilst still maintaining our commitment towards providing efficient services to you, and to the best of our ability.

We remind you that declarations under the CIPC (Companies and Intellectual Property Commission) documentation, is NOT authoritative to the extent that businesses are deemed "essential" and therefore allowed to operate.

As you may be aware new regulations were implemented in the Government gazette mid-day yesterday which has the effect of (inter alia) the following: -

- Movements within South Africa are allowed for transportation of cargo from ports of entry to their intended destination, provided that necessary precautions have been taken to sanitise and disinfect cargo.
- Transport and logistics in respect of cargo and goods described in the annexures to the regulations is permitted to neighbouring countries and is deemed as an essential service.

Following the recent promulgation, there has been some confusion regarding the interpretation and application of the amendments. To clarify this position, it is imperative to note that the provisions contained within the Disaster Management Act, still exist to the extent that non-essential service providers are still NOT permitted to operate/receive cargo.

- All cargo that has not been assigned or released to a transporter within the 96-hour cut off period (prior to vessel berth) will have to be moved to our local depot – this is to maintain terminal fluidity and avoid unnecessary port congestion.
- Essential cargo can be released directly to clients, however this is subject to the condition that empty turn ins, must be returned within the stipulated time period by agreement or, as per standard trading conditions.

- Under no conditions will MSC be allowed to release “non-essential cargo” to a “non-essential” consignee/receiver who are not permitted to operate their business during the lockdown period.

Should you have any further queries then you are welcomed to contact our local offices directly.

We appreciate your continued support and we remain committed to you and your cargo over these testing times.

We thank you for your valued support and assure you of our continued commitment.

With Best Regards,

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