



Emerging Issues Digest

2020/04/10 - 2020/04/17

COVID-19 RESPONSES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GLOBAL OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL SOURCES

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1 OFFICIAL SOURCES

1.1 ARGENTINA

1.1.1 2020-04-13: COVID-19 – Transmission; Regulatory - Official

Department of Health: Regulation

Concepts: [disinfectants](#)

[Surface disinfectants: extraordinary criteria and procedures for registration in the context of the health emergency by covid-19 | Argentina.gob.ar](#)

However, the company must inform the Health Authority of its proposal in accordance with the procedure described in item V). In this case, it will not be required to make a modification of the disinfectant product registration. In such a situation, the label should record the file number of the process in progress instead of the registration certificate number. IV.c) Modification of data declared in the product registry.

1.2 BRAZIL

1.2.1 2020-04-12: COVID-19 – Transmission; Regulatory - Official

Department of Health: Notice

Concepts: [disinfectants](#)

[Anvisa simplifies authorization of hygiene products | Minas Gerais State Health Secretariat - SES](#)

In addition, companies must have all legal permissions for operation, including the manufacture and storage of flammable substances. The objective is to increase the offer of products on the market so that society has more access to protection items. The measure is extraordinary and temporary and was motivated by the international public health emergency caused by the new coronavirus (Covid-19). The companies of medicines, sanitizing and cosmetics regularized with Authorization of Operation (AFE), permit or health license issued by the competent health agency of the states, Federal District and municipalities will be allowed to manufacture and sell the products. The rules are in the Resolution of the Collegiate Board (RDC) 350/2020 and are effective from this Friday (20/3), date of publication in the Official Gazette (DOU).

1.2.2 2020-04-13: Transmission - Official

Ministry of Agriculture: Regulation

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[ACTION PLAN, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF EXPOSURE TO THE NEW CORONA VIRUS](#)

General guidance from the Ministry of Agriculture.

1.2.3 2020-04-14: Supply chain - Official

Official Gazette: Press Release

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[RESOLUTION No. 1, OF APRIL 13, 2020 INSTITUTING THE CRISIS COMMITTEE FOR SUPERVISION AND MONITORING OF THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19](#)

The Working Group is responsible for VI - propose measures with the objective of guaranteeing the supply chain of strategic sectors; and VII - to propose measures that promote the reduction of bureaucracy in administrative procedures through the use of information technology, the simplification of procedures related to notary registrations, public contracts, the creation and extinction of legal entities, regulatory and environmental licensing aspects, among others.

1.3 COLOMBIA

1.3.1 2020-04-10: COVID-19 – Import-Export Restrictions - Official

Government: Regulation

[RESOLUTION NUMBER \(0156-2020\) APRIL 10, 2020 Maritime Restrictions](#)

Through which special measures are established for the exercise and control of maritime activities in the framework of the health emergency declared by the Government National for the Coronavirus COVID-19 through Decree 417 of 2020. Every international trafficking vessel with intent to arrive at the Colombian port, must present through the shipping agency the receipt notice with a minimum of 24 hours anticipation through the integrated trafficking and maritime transport system - SITMAR, together with the following documentation as a minimum: a) List of the last 10 ports visited b) List of crew c) List of passengers d) Maritime health declaration and its adjunct plan (annex 8 del RSI The closing of the elaboration of this document must not be longer than 3 hours prior to delivery) e) Crew temperature record f) Port of origin.

1.4 EUROPEAN UNION

1.4.1 2020-04-15: COVID-19 - Transmission – Official

EU (European Commission): Guidance

[COVID-19 and Food Safety Q&A](#)

The food safety FAQs document from the European Commission (EC) covers information about food industry risks, procedures for infected workers, how to handle a shortage of hand disinfectants, and more.

1.5 INDIA

1.5.1 2020-04-13: COVID-19 - Transmission - Official

Ministry of Health: Notice

Concepts: [water](#)

[Advisory for ensuring safe drinking water during lock down and effective management of pandemic caused by Corona Virus](#)

Advisory for ensuring safe drinking water during lock down and effective COVID-19 has taken pandemic proportions in many countries and in view of the seriousness of the matter, Govt of India and State Governments have taken several pre-emptive measures to contain this disease in the country. Arrangements for round the clock vigil may be made to ensure functionality of water The purifying chemicals are among the essential commodities and therefore it may be ensured that these are part of the running supply chain. Frequent washing of hands with frothing soaps is recognized as most efficient and effective measure in the listed preventive measures for controlling the spread of the virus.

1.6 INTERNATIONAL

1.6.1 2020-04-15: COVID-19 - Transmission – Official

World Health Organization (WHO): Regulation

[COVID-19 and food safety: guidance for food businesses](#)

New interim guidance document from the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding COVID-19 and food safety. The document is specifically for food businesses. Topics covered include virus symptoms amongst food industry workers, proper use of disposable gloves, preventing the spread of the virus at work, physical distancing, and more.

1.6.2 2020-04-13: COVID-19 – Transmission; Risk Management - Official

Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA): Report

[Pest Risk Analysis as a tool in the face of a pandemic Case study: Covid 19](#)

1.7 ITALY

1.7.1 2020-04-15: COVID-19 – Regulatory - Official

Parliament: Regulation

[Measures to deal with the epidemic emergency from Covid-19 \("Cura Italia"\) - Economic Profiles](#)

Updated parliamentary dossier including types of economic support to industries and workers in different support e.g. agriculture.

1.8 MEXICO

1.8.1 2020-04-15: COVID-19 – Market Entry; Supply chain - Official

Administration of Customs: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Measures aiming to Facilitate the Cross-border Movement of Relief and Essential Supplies](#)

The administration of each Point of entry will be able to determine, according to the volume of operations, the schedule for clearance of goods in order to secure the cross-border movement of Relief and Essential Supplies, notifying this Measures aiming at Supporting the Economy and Sustaining Supply Chain. There will be special protocols to expedite the clearance of the following goods: Supplies donated to the Ministry of Health, in accordance with rule 3.3.20. "Simplified procedure for imports made by the Ministry of Health and decentralized agencies of the Health Sector", of the RGCE, published in advance on the Tax Administration Perishable goods, medicines, and health products or other essential goods.

1.9 ROMANIA

1.9.1 2020-04-14: COVID-19 – Transmission - Official

Food Safety Agency: Press Release

[Press Release 2020: Recommendation for Consumers](#)

It is recommended that the population purchase the food products specific to this Holy Holidays, only from the registered / authorized sanitary-veterinary units. Purchase food only from specially arranged and authorized places, which have been subjected to sanitary-veterinary control and which provide specific hygienic-sanitary conditions. Avoid the “unauthorized street” trade, which contributes to the emergence of food poisoning and endangers the health of consumers and even their lives. Purchase fresh meat only from authorized places: butchers, grocery stores, etc.

1.10 SINGAPORE

1.10.1 2020-04-11: COVID-19 – Transmission - Official

Food Safety Agency: Notice

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[All personnel engaged in the sale and preparation of food and drinks required to wear masks or other forms of physical barriers from 13 April 2020](#)

All personnel engaged in the sale and preparation of food and drinks required to wear masks or other forms of physical barriers from 13 April 2020 With increased local transmission of COVID-19, and the possible presence of undetected cases in the community, the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) issued an advisory to operators of F&B establishments on 6 April 2020, informing them that food handlers and employees should wear a mask or face shield while they are working, such as when serving food, taking orders, and accepting payment. This protects them against possible transmission from others, and also prevents transmission to others should they be infected but asymptomatic. 2 To ensure compliance,

SFA is introducing a mandatory requirement for all personnel engaged in the sale and preparation of food and drinks at all SFA-licensed food establishments to wear masks or other forms of physical barriers (e.g. face shields) in order to safeguard public health and prevent food contamination. The requirement will take effect on 13 April 2020. Operators who do not comply with the requirement are liable for a penalty of up to \$5,000 and/or suspension or 4 Food handlers are strongly reminded that they must not handle food when they are unwell. Members of the public can report non-compliant food handlers to SFA via our online feedback form (www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback).

1.10.2 2020-04-15: COVID-19 – Market Entry; Supply chain - Official
Ministry of Industry and Trade: Press Release

[Singapore-New Zealand Declaration on Trade in Essential Goods](#)

SINGAPORE CONCLUDES NEGOTIATIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND FOR DECLARATION ON TRADE IN ESSENTIAL GOODS, including processed foods, dietary food supplements, meat, fish, vegetable and fruit. Complete list in Annex. Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker jointly announced the launch of a Declaration on Trade in Essential Goods for Combating the COVID-19 2. I look forward to receiving the first shipment of essential supplies from New Zealand next week under the agreement that we have." Our aim is to enable the continued production and flow of essential supplies to their intended destinations.

1.11 UNITED STATES

1.11.1 2020-04-16: COVID-19 – Transmission - Official
FDA: Guidance

[Shopping for Food During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Information for Consumers](#)

Guidance for consumers: We want to reassure consumers that there is currently no evidence of human or animal food or food packaging being associated with transmission of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. This particular coronavirus causes respiratory illness and is spread from person-to-person, unlike foodborne gastrointestinal or GI viruses, such as norovirus and hepatitis A that often make people ill through contaminated food. Although your grocery store may be temporarily out of certain products, there are no nationwide shortages of food. Food production and manufacturing are spread throughout the United States. During this pandemic, consumers are getting most of their food from grocery stores, and many stores have modified their operating hours to allow for more time to restock shelves and clean. In addition, many stores are providing special hours for seniors or other high-risk individuals to shop and are offering pick-up and delivery services.

1.12 USA NEBRASKA

1.12.1 2020-04-13: COVID-19 – Regulatory - Official
Ministry of Agriculture: Notice
Concepts: [pesticides](#)

[NDA Order Eases Restrictions on Pesticide Applicator License Holders](#)

LINCOLN – Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Steve Wellman has issued an order easing restrictions on pesticide applicators whose licenses are up for renewal. The order temporarily postpones certain training requirements outlined in the Nebraska Pesticide Act and extends valid pesticide applicators' licenses if According to the order, people with valid commercial, non-commercial and private applicator licenses which expire on April 15, 2020, must notify NDA of their intent to renew their license and pay the required fees to NDA by May 15, 2020. Upon receipt of payment, NDA will allow the applicator to defer the required training for license renewals until April 15, 2021. "In these challenging times, Nebraska farmers and ranchers have a critical and essential role in keeping our food supply safe and strong," said NDA Director Steve Wellman. "This order helps Nebraska pesticide applicators, that were unable to complete trainings due to COVID-19 crowd The order also states that the time period will increase from 60 days to 120 days for a noncertified applicator to work under the provisions of the Nebraska Pesticide Act for exemption Annual training for dicamba is still required for crop application of specific dicamba products. Online training is available at www.nda.nebraska.gov.

1.13 UNITED KINGDOM

1.13.1 2020-04-17: COVID-19 - Transmission – Official (editorial add)

Food Standard Agency (FSA): Guidance

[FSA Publishes Guidance for Consumers on Corona Virus](#)

The Food Standards Agency has today published new guidance to help consumers understand more about COVID-19 and food. The guidance covers a range of issues including food hygiene, food packaging and social distancing when shopping. There is also advice on storing food at home, to help people manage leftovers and avoid waste. The FSA's advice is clear that it remains very unlikely that people can catch COVID-19 from food. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness and not known to be transmitted by exposure to food or food packaging. The FSA is continuing to work closely with industry and other partners to ensure the UK food supply remains safe and the public kept informed of the latest safety advice.

2 UNOFFICIAL SOURCES

2.1 BELGIUM

2.1.1 2020-04-17: COVID-19 – Frauds - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [fraud](#)

[Covid-19: The risk of food fraud increases - Process Alimentaire](#)

The Covid-19 epidemic is believed to increase the risk of fraud. Tea-based food supplements have been intercepted in Belgium. The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain reported fraudulent food supplements that consumers could obtain on the Internet. Teas supposed to treat against the flu and especially the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

2.2 BRAZIL

2.2.1 2020-04-14: COVID-19 - Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[The Impact of Coronavirus in Brazil across Industries - Euromonitor](#)

Packaged food will undoubtedly benefit in the short term, as consumers are staying at home and replacing “eating out” occasions with homemade food. The most important items have been staples (rice, pasta and sauces/condiments), shelf-stable vegetables (the first items that supermarkets set purchase limits on), frozen ready meals and snacks. In general, products with longer shelf life are preferred during the quarantine, while chilled products such as yoghurts and ice cream are not considered cost beneficial at this point. Such a positive scenario in the short term, however, does not necessarily mean peaks in year-based sales in the second half of the year due to leftovers of longer shelf-life products. Other challenges are distribution logistics affected by a reduced workforce, raw materials shortage (especially those which are harvest dependent) and bottlenecks in packaging supply, as with glass manufacturers, for instance.

2.3 BULGARIA

2.3.1 2020-04-14: COVID-19 - Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [supply chain](#), [fruit](#)

[PROBLEMS WITH EXPORTS OF CANNED BULGARIAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES](#)

Production of processed fruit, which is destined for export and mostly with previously established contracts, it cannot be shipped due to logistical problems, especially in Italy. There they are looking for alternative ways, like rail transport in containers, but the costs are much higher than those of the road transport, "says Bozhinova, who indicates that the fruit processed into compote forms the basis of Bulgarian exports to Italy. Currently, transport corridors established between countries have not yet been able to demonstrate their effectiveness, as delays have accumulated since early March. Not all truck drivers are willing to make deliveries in Italy and Spain, the areas most affected by the coronavirus.

2.4 INTERNATIONAL

2.4.1 2020-04-10: COVID-19 – Food Packaging; Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [plastic based packaging](#), [packaging](#)

[Impact to Plastics Industry - Plastic News](#)

Braskem employees living at Pa. plant to maintain production. The world is difficult now for resin market. COVID-19 pandemic opens doors for new business.

2.4.2 2020-04-14: COVID-19 - Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[COVID-19 Impact on Livestock Prices \(International\)](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant falling cattle and hog prices linked to shifting demand and changes in the supply chain. Cattle and hog futures prices for April delivery have fallen 20-40% since Jan. 11, when the first death from COVID-19 was reported in China. The Livestock Marketing Information Center projected on April 3 that 2020 prices will be down because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Cattle and hog futures for October delivery have also been down, but not as significantly, indicating optimism that the agriculture sector will make adjustments between April and October.

2.4.3 2020-04-14: COVID-19 –Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

[Global Food Exports Are Paralyzed by Problems at Ports - Bloomberg](#)

In the Philippines, officials at a port that's a key entry point for rice said last week the terminal was at risk of shutting as thousands of shipping containers pile up because lockdown measures are making them harder to clear. Meanwhile, curfews in Guatemala and Honduras, known for their specialty coffees, are limiting operating hours at ports and slowing shipments. And in parts of Africa, which is heavily dependent on food imports, there aren't enough workers showing up to help unload cargoes.

2.4.4 2020-04-15: COVID-19 - Food Packaging; Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [plastic based packaging](#), [packaging](#)

[Sonoco Implementing Price Increase for Uncoated Recycled Paperboard](#)

2.4.5 2020-04-15: COVID-19 - Food Packaging; Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [supply chain](#), [packaging](#)

[Sun Chemical Applying Surcharges on Latin American Solvent-Based Inks, Varnishes](#)

As a result of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, Sun Chemical Latin America will implement a surcharge on solvent-based inks and varnishes and will communicate the effective date directly to customers. Also, Sun Chemical is evaluating alternative solutions for suppliers and materials and is working with its technical team to provide unparalleled support for customers. Global availability is decreasing, resulting in increased prices. The pandemic has caused a global shortage and supply volatility for raw materials throughout the world, most notably, solvents and alcohols. The supply, which had been previously limited due to an increased demand for ethanol fuel, continues to narrow as the coronavirus causes a further uptick in demand for pharmaceutical and sanitized products.

2.5 MOROCCO, TUNISIA

2.5.1 2020-04-14: COVID-19 - Supply Chain; Prices - Unofficial

Association/Professional Organization: Report

Concepts: [contamination](#)

[COVID-19 - Report on Impact on Agri-Food Sector in Morocco and Tunisia](#)

The prices of red and white meats, as well as those of pulses, were also found to be stable. National markets: Normal supply, stable prices: The inter-ministerial committee responsible for monitoring supply, prices and price and quality control operations assured, Thursday in Rabat, that during this week, the supply situation market is normal and that the prices of most products are stable. The department which claims to ensure a daily and rigorous monitoring of market supply in all regions, adds that the rotation program is progressing as planned according to the predefined schedule. With regard to market supply for autumn 2020, the crop rotation program for the aforementioned crops will cover consumption needs until December 2020. With regard to seasonal vegetables, the ministry responsible for Agriculture oversees the monitoring of the planting of areas in potatoes, onions, tomatoes, carrots and zucchini, said the same source, adding that the commission noted that the prices of most products are stable.

2.6 MEXICO, COLOMBIA

2.6.1 2020-04-16: COVID-19 - Supply Chain; Prices - Unofficial

Association/Professional Organization: Report

[COVID-19 - Report on Impact in Mexico and Colombia](#)

MEXICO: Agricultural production, fishing, animal husbandry, food industry and production of soft drinks, agroindustrial, sale of food, prepared food are considered as essential and can therefore continue. - The production of alcoholic beverages is considered not essential; the groups beer producers (Heineken and Grupo Modelo) therefore stop production. Mexico is the first beer exporting country in the world and the 4th producer. COLOMBIA: The Minister of Agriculture announced on April 9 that customs tariffs are kept at 0% for the soybeans, corn and sorghum until June 30, 2020, in order to ensure the supply capacity of the countries (whose production capacity is not sufficient). On April 7, the government established a list of 26 basic necessities to guarantee supply and avoid speculation on prices: actors in the production chain, distribution and marketing will have to provide the prices of 26 products to the department of statistics (DANE), to monitor and control prices (including 12 food products: rice, milk long-life, refined sugar, farm cheese, sunflower oil, onions, potatoes, egg, orange). The Ministry of Agriculture has set up an input price monitoring system agricultural (fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary drugs, biological products for breeding and animal feed) during the state of emergency.

2.7 UNITED STATES

2.7.1 2020-04-10: COVID-19 - Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Scientific Publication: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Food Supply Chains Affected by Virus](#)

But the food itself is safe. As with many businesses in the country, food production sites and grocery outlets have been hit with COVID-19 illnesses. A major pork processing plant is closing until further notice after hundreds of employees tested positive for the coronavirus. Two of America's largest beef packing companies have announced plant closings due to COVID-19. A University of Missouri livestock economist says prolonged shutdowns are his biggest concern right now. This University of Arkansas professor explains how the virus has upended the global food system. A corn processing facility announced that several workers had come down with the virus, and fruits and vegetables grown in Florida—and other states—are going to waste because farmers can't sell to restaurants, theme parks, or schools.

2.7.2 2020-04-11: COVID-19 - Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: News Article

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[With Restaurants Reeling, Produce Farmers Seek Reason to Harvest](#)

With restaurants, school cafeterias and sporting arenas closed, the supply chain for food service has seen demand evaporate overnight. The commercial food service industry accounts for roughly 40% of all fresh produce grown in the U.S. Pandemic-driven demand is driving purchases of certain staples such as bread, meat, eggs and dried beans. The same isn't necessarily true for fresh fruits and vegetables.

2.7.3 2020-04-13: COVID-19 - Supply chain Prices - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Dairy industry continues to deal with coronavirus 'gut punch' finding new ways to absorb excess supply - Food Navigator USA](#)

Working with other dairy cooperatives and organizations including Feeding America, DMI is expanding access to dairy products for those facing food insecurity. As retail demand settles into its pre-coronavirus levels of buying, the hardest hit area for the US dairy industry continues to be the drastic shutdown of the foodservice channel. Recommendations proposed by the US dairy organizations were aimed at closing the supply and demand gap for milk and milk-based ingredients. We had seen record levels of volume, we had seen record value being paid by folks outside the United States. And some that we've talked to in industry say that we're now at or below pre-virus levels," said DMI CEO Tom Gallagher on the press call.

2.7.4 2020-04-14: COVID-19 - Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#), [meat](#)

[Two large meat facilities shutdown because of too many employee COVID-19 cases](#)

COVID-19 forced the closures of the Smithfield Foods pork processing plant in Sioux Falls, SD, and the JBS USA beef plant in Greeley, CO. Smithfield on Easter Sunday announced the former John Morrell plant in Sioux Falls, one of the largest pork processing facilities in the U.S., would be closed indefinitely. JBS on Monday said the Greeley beef plant would be shut down until April 24. Further, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem and Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken, wrote Smithfield on Saturday, recommending the company suspended operations for a minimum of 14 days. They suggested the facility be cleaned and employees are given time to recover from any suspected illness.

2.7.5 2020-04-14: COVID-19 - Supply chain; Transmission - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#), [packaging](#)

[Coronavirus risks a return of the throwaway culture - POLITICO](#)

All this will potentially create a risk for food waste in other parts of the value chain and different product categories,” Pesonen said. Some European retailers have banned customers from using their own containers for food in order to avoid contamination risks.

2.7.6 2020-04-16: Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Consumer fears about safety eclipse those of access when grocery shopping during pandemic](#)

Specifically, it found 65% of survey respondents on April 8 said they were concerned about access to food and beverage products. According to CBA, 42% of survey respondents now feel they are well-stocked for two or more weeks and 38% for one to two weeks. At that point, just over a year ago, 68% were confident in the safety of the food supply (53% somewhat confident and 15% very confident),” IFIC reported. While concern about access to high-demand products continues, albeit to a slightly lesser extent, consumers remain confident in the safety of what is available, according to IFIC’s survey. The most recent data from April 8 shows 63% of respondents are “very concerned” about the virus compared to 37% on March 4.

2.7.7 2020-04-16: Supply chain - Unofficial

Press/News: Notice

Concepts: [supply chain](#)

[Court strikes down Final Rule that eliminated and delayed stricter nutrition standards for school meals](#)

As a long-time, vocal supporter of the 2018 Final Rule, the School Nutrition Association urged USDA to take “quick action to restore school meal flexibilities” in the now invalidated rule. Sonny Perdue, SNA notes that the court ruling found the final rule “not inconsistent” with federal statutes, but rather simply was hung-up in a “fault ... in the rulemaking process.” If not for this technicality, SNA suggests the “flexibility provided under the Final Rule” would have withstood the court’s scrutiny. However, the 2018 rule delayed the compliance date for the second sodium-reduction target and eliminated the third. It also changed the requirement for whole grains so that only half of grain-based foods needed to be whole-grain-rich. In an April 15 letter to USDA Sec.