



BUSINESS & THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

General Provisions of the SOE

GUIDELINES

April 3rd, 2020



The Curfew

- The Government of Belize (GoB) has declared a one-month State of Emergency in an effort to curb the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID 19)
- A curfew from 8:00 p.m. to 4:59 am has been instituted for the entire country
- With the exception of Essential Workers, no person should be on the streets or in any public place or road during the curfew hours;

Restriction of Movement During Non-Curfew Hours

- The State of Emergency (SoE) has also placed restrictions on citizens' movements outside the Curfew Hours
- Between the hours 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ("non-curfew hours") there shall be no loitering, wandering, assembling, or other types of movement in any public place or road



- Movement (whether by foot or by any other means of transportation) during the non-curfew hours are limited to the following activities:
 - Purchasing essential needs;
 - Attending medical or veterinary attention;
 - Emergencies;
 - An essential worker going to or from work, and/or acting in the scope of his duties;
 - A home-health care provider of services to the sick and elderly going to or from work;
 - Delivery services or other similar operations requiring the movement of personnel for the effective conduct of the business or operations
- During the SoE, an officer of the security services may stop and question any person found moving with an aim to ascertain that person's motives for moving

The Pass Badge

- Under the SoE, the Ministry of National Security is issuing pass badges as an exception to the aforementioned restrictions; thereby, allowing badge holders to move freely



Operations of Approved Business During Non-Curfew Hours

Group A: Approved from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- The following Businesses are allowed to operate during the non-curfew hours from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.:
 - i. Fuel stations, fuel depots, LPG suppliers, LPS depots and LPG distributors;
 - ii. Public transportation providers;
 - iii. Bakeries and tortilla factories;
 - iv. Agro-processors, food and carbonated and other beverage manufacturers;
 - v. Agricultural and aquaculture farms;
 - vi. Fishers;
 - vii. Construction and construction sites (private and commercial);
 - viii. Waste disposal and sanitation companies and auxiliary personnel



Group B: Approved from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- The following Businesses are allowed to operate during the non-curfew hours from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.:
 - i. Pharmacies;
 - ii. Convenience stores, food stores, supermarkets, meat shops, butchers, distributors and factories of carbonated and other beverages, including spirits (excluding potable water) and food;
 - iii. Financial institutions (including commercial banks, credit unions, money lending institutions, money transfer institutions, pawn shops);
 - iv. Hotels, villas and other rental accommodations for maintenance purposes only, and if these establishments have a restaurant, only take-out or drive thru services are allowed ;
 - v. Markets (agricultural produce, fish and meat);
 - vi. Service of take-out or drive thru' facility only at restaurants, saloons, diners and the like;
 - vii. International deliver services by International delivery service providers (such as FedEx, DHL, etc.);

COVID-19



Group B: Approved from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- viii. Domestic delivery services related strictly to meals, groceries, medical supplies and equipment;
- ix. Mechanic shops, garages and auto parts stores;
- x. Store front outlets for essential businesses (public utilities companies);
- xi. Hardware stores for delivery services only to approved businesses allowed to operate under these Regulations;
- xii. Wholesalers of goods and services directly related to any approved business as outlined in the Regulation by delivery ONLY. If both a Wholesaler and retailer, the retail portion must be closed as the business should not be open to the general public.

Group C: Approved for All-day and Everyday Operations

- The following Businesses are allowed to operate during all day and everyday of week:
 - i. Food Mills;
 - ii. Sugar, citrus and other approved food production factories;
 - iii. Oil production and drilling for oil exploration



- iv. Port operations and services connected with the loading and unloading of ships and aircrafts, and delivery to and from ports

Group D: Approved from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

• Government offices listed in Schedule II of the Regulations. This includes, but not limited to:

- i. Officer of the Prime Minister
- ii. Ministry of Finance;
- iii. Attorney General's Ministry (including Vital Statistics Unit and Belize Companies Registry)
- iv. The Judiciary of Belize
- v. Ministry of Health;
- vi. The Belize Tax Services Department;
- vii. The Belize Bureau of Standards;
- viii. The National Fire Service;
- ix. NEMO;
- x. Central Bank of Belize;
- xi. Belize Telemedia Limited;
- xii. Speednet Communications Limited (SMART).
- xiii. The Social Security Board; and
- xiv. Municipal Bodies



Group E: Prohibited Business Activity

- The following types of businesses or business activities are prohibited during the SoE:
 - i. Casinos and gaming establishments;
 - ii. Spas, beauty salons and barber shops;
 - iii. Gymnasiums (gyms), sporting complexes;
 - iv. Discotheques, bars, rum shops and night clubs;
 - v. Restaurants, saloons, diners, and other similar establishments (except as it pertains take out services which are permitted).

Social Distance Remains Key

- Approved Businesses within any of the Groups from A to D are expected to maintain appropriate social-distancing protocols, and this includes taking measures to ensure that customers maintain no less than three feet distance from each other either in or outside the business establishment.



Social Distance Remains Key

- i. Within 24-hours of the SoE coming into force, Approved Businesses are expected to place distance markers both inside and outside to achieve the regulated three-foot minimum;
- ii. Proportionate to the square footage of the business, determine the number of persons permitted into the premises;