



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK BASED ON COVID-19

HONDURAS

Updated March 26th, 2020

APPROVED REGULATION

PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE – REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SINAGER)

Official Government Statement prohibits public officers from leaving the country. (March 11, 2020)

- Addressed to: Secretaries of State, Holders of office, Officers of the Executive Branch, and any member of the Chief Presidential Cabinet, where such officials, because of COVID-19, are prohibited from traveling outside the country, except for permits granted by the Cabinet.

Honduran Government suspends work at educational centers and cancels public events. (March 12, 2020)

- The Government of the Republic determined that labor must be suspended at all Educational Institutions, as well as all public events and shows. Prohibition of entry into the country by persons from various countries declared at risk. Exceptions apply to nationals and others. The above measures are valid for fourteen (14) days.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/MEDIDAS%2520GOBIERNO%2520COVID19_0.pdf

The Honduran Government imposes and communicates new measures. (March 14, 2020)

- These measures are effective from March 14 – 28, 2020 and prohibit gatherings of more than 50 people. People over 60 years of age are required to work from home and all employers are required to apply strict hygiene and safety protocols in workplaces at a national level to prevent COVID19. Recommendations are issued. All measures previously mentioned shall be enforced for fourteen days as of March 14, 2020.
- <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/Comunicado%252014.pdf.pdf>

The State of Honduras specifies business closing measures. (March 15, 2020)

- SINAGER issues regulations on certain specifications regarding business and business closure measures. A curfew is decreed until further notice with exceptions related to basic needs.
- <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/ESPECIFICACIONES%2520MEDIDAS%2520COVID19%2520HONDURAS.pdf>

New measures for the restriction of some constitutional guarantees are issued in National Conference (March 16, 2020)



- Through a national conference, new measures are enacted to contain the progress of COVID-19. Some restrictions of constitutional guarantees were approved by Decree PCM 21-2020 for seven (7) days from the publication of the decree until Monday, March 23, 2020. Certain activities declared of national need are allowed.
- <https://covid19honduras.org/?q=cadena-nacional-16-3-2020-4-pm>

Absolute curfew declared in fast-growing cities. (March 16, 2020)

- A statement was issued to inform that exceptions were eliminated, and an ABSOLUTE CURFEW is declared, meaning the prohibition of entrances and exits of three cities (La Ceiba, San Pedro Sula, and Central District), as well as any internal circulation from 10:00 pm on March 16, 2020, and until further notice.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/TOQUE%2520DE%2520QUEDA%2520HONDURAS_0.pdf

Message from the President of the Republic of Honduras on economic measures (March 17, 2020)

- The President of the Republic declared that BANHPROVI will freeze loan repayment quotas for three months; debts will be reinstated without damaging credit records. Similarly, BANHPROVI will make available to banks 200 million lempiras to reactivate the construction industry; there will also be credit for small and medium-sized enterprises and agriculture.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/MEDIDAS%2520ECONOMICAS%2520COVID19%2520HONDURAS_0.pdf

Government of the Republic authorizes bank institutions, cooperatives and all finance companies offering access to credits, to open their facilities under certain conditions. (March 24, 2020)

- Banks, cooperatives and finance companies in coordination with the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) will be able to attend to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09:00 a.m. until 04:00 p.m., in all its agencies and branches, except for shopping centers (malls) from Wednesday, March 25. There are several conditions.
- https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/COMUNICADO%20BANCOS%20POLICIA.docx_0.pdf

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Confirmation of firsts official cases of COVID19 in Honduras (March 10, 2020)

- The Ministry of Health issued a statement confirming the first two cases of coronavirus in Honduras and details the measures taken, as well as recommendations to be followed.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/comunicado_primeros2casos_0.pdf

The Ministry of Health explains preventive and precautionary measures. (March 20, 2020)



- The Ministry of Health, on the national network, urges the population to continue with the instructions generated by the Government of the Republic and to take all preventive and precautionary measures. The Ministry also announced that, at the moment, the same number of patients with coronavirus is maintained.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/CADENA%2520NACIONAL%252020%2520MARZO%2520430PM_0.pdf

EXECUTIVE DECREES

A State of Emergency is established in the national territory through EXECUTIVE DECREE NUMBER PCM-005-2020. (February 10, 2020)

- The Executive Branch declared a State of Sanitary Emergency throughout the national territory to continue and strengthen prevention and control actions and ensure primary treatment for people suffering from dengue, as well as to strengthen the actions of surveillance, prevention, and control and gain public attention before the probable occurrence of infection by COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Decreto Ejecutivo Número PCM-005-2020

Measures are taken to avoid crowding of people at public shows, public roads, schools, churches, etc. through EXECUTIVE DECREE NUMBER PCM-018-2020 (March 13, 2020)

- For 14 days from March 13, 2020:
 - Suspension of classes at pre-basic, basic and middle education levels.
 - Cancellation of all events and public shows.
- Restriction of access to foreign citizens from countries with a high incidence rate of COVID-19. Acuerdo Ministerial No. 018-2020 emitido por la Secretaría de Desarrollo Económico

Restriction of constitutional guarantees such as free movement, freedom of association and freedom of speech, etc. and the exceptions to the prohibition of movement at the national level through EXECUTIVE DECREE NUMBER PCM-021-2020 (March 16, 2020)

- It provides restrictions on the constitutional guarantees and its prohibitions and exceptions for certain public officers and some specific issues related to trade and industry.
- It is established that the Ministry of Economic Development can authorize, the operation of a company or otherwise agree on the mechanism for the suspension of operations such as the case of the maquila and manufacturing sector.

LEGISLATIVE DECREES



Measures for tax relief are contemplated through DECREE NO.29-2020 for the acquisition of certain products. (March 12, 2020)

- Exemption from the payment of the sales tax in the local purchase and import of raw materials, supplies, packaging material and containers necessary for the manufacture of sanitizing products; purchase of masks and hand gel produced locally. The State and Civil Associations are exempt from filing tax solvency in the process of all customs franchises and exemptions from purchases and donations in the field of humanitarian aid. Free zones are authorized to sell or donate medical equipment.

Decreto no.29-2020

The Special Law on Economic Acceleration and Social Protection against the Effects of Coronavirus COVID19 is approved through Decree No. 31-2020. (March 13, 2020)

- A budget reallocation is established to bear the health expenses of the IHSS.
- BANHPROVI is authorized to take measures that guarantee to finance the facilitation of access to the productive sectors and to promote risk management and/or refinancing and adjustment of debts to individuals or legal entities in the financial system belonging to them. In turn, the implementation of telework in public and private institutions is authorized.

Decreto no. 31-2020

IMMIGRATION NATIONAL INSTITUTE

The Immigration National Institute issues a statement encouraging the population to avoid unnecessary travel (March 11, 2020)

- A statement was issued to encourage all the Honduran population to **refrain from unnecessary travel to countries reporting COVID19** incidence, such as China, Iran, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, among others. In the case of persons returning from any of those countries, a 14-day quarantine is decreed.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/Comunicado_COVID-19%252010_0.pdf

The Immigration National Institute confirms that immigration mobility is restricted (March 21, 2020)

- Ground immigration control points continue to operate to enter the country of Hondurans, residents, and diplomats; Exit from Honduran territory of foreigners who have the entry permit from the country they intend to enter. The Air Immigration Control points are kept closed for commercial flights. The departure of individuals via this route requires an exit authorization on private flights. No foreign person may enter the national territory.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/comunicado_0.pdf

NATIONAL BANK AND INSURANCE COMMISSION (CNBS)



CNBS issues a statement addressed to the insurance institutions and the financial system (March 16, 2020)

- The CNBS has called on the supervised institutions to abide by and cooperate with the measures of the State of Honduras to protect people's lives under COVID19, and also to define and make available to financial users channels to be able to provide products and financial services. Insurers are asked to establish expedited and agile mechanisms.

<https://www.cnbs.gob.hn/blog/comunicados-oficiales/cm-no-02-2020-2/>

CNBS informs supervised institutions about new temporary financial measures (March 21, 2020)

- CNBS, through notice No. 006/2020, approved temporary financial measures, which allow addressing the economic impact on sectors affected by the measures adopted by the country to prevent COVID19.

<https://www.cnbs.gob.hn/blog/circulares/circular-cnbs-oo62020/>

CNBS communicates the second measures of the first phase of the plan for mitigating the economic and financial impact of COVID-19 of mandatory compliance for supervised institutions (March 21, 2020)

- The institutions supervised by the National Commission of Banks and Insurance that carry out credit operations may grant grace periods to debtors (individuals or legal entities) that are affected by the reduction of their cash flows. The affected debtors will be able to formalize refinancing or readjustments of their loans. Supervised institutions will not charge debtors.

<https://covid19honduras.org/?q=cnbs-22-3>

CNBS through CNBS Circular No. 007/2020 informs the general population about the suspension of deadlines (March 23, 2020)

- All deadlines, legal or administrative terms granted to financial institutions in all matters or proceedings pending at CNBS are suspended and were communicated or began to run before March 16, 2020.
- This suspension does not apply to the submission of periodic reports referring to figures and data that are necessary to evaluate the behavior of temporary or urgent measures issued by CNBS.

<https://www.cnbs.gob.hn/blog/circular/circular-cnbs-007-2020/>

JUDICIAL POWER OF HONDURAS

The Judiciary suspends its activities in part (March 15, 2020)

- Through release No. 2, the Judiciary informs that those over 60 years of age will be allowed to telework to avoid suspending public hearings. It also limits several of its functions, leaving



essential activities, in order not to violate fundamental rights. Tours, trips abroad, the exercise of practitioners, and other activities are suspended.

<https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/COMUNICADO%25202%2520PODER%2520JUDICIAL%252015%2520marzo%2520de%25202019%2520Medidas%2520ante%2520coronavirus.pdf.pdf> 0.pdf

The Judiciary extends the period for suspension of activities due to the government shutdown (March 21, 2020)

- The Judiciary, through agreement No PCSJ 10-2020, extends the term of suspension of Judiciary work at the national level from Monday, March 23 to Sunday, March 29, 2020, allowing telework, instead. Moreover, the days mentioned above are declared as non-business days for purposes of proceedings and procedural deadlines, from midnight Sunday to Monday, March 23, 2020, until 23:59:59 on Sunday, March 29, 2020.

<https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/Acuerdo%2520Presidencia%2520CSJ%2520Ampliacio%25CC%2581n%2520de%2520la%2520Suspensio%25CC%2581n%2520de%2520Labores%2520en%2520el%2520PJ%2520por%2520Coronavirus%252021%252003%25202020.pdf> 0.pdf

SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE GOVERNMENT, JUSTICE AND DECENTRALIZATION OFFICES

Government and the Judiciary respond to the national alert by suspending work and declaring them non-business days (March 16, 2020)

- Because of the national emergency occasioned by COVID-19, work was suspended in said Dependencies from Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20, 2020. The aforementioned days were declared non-business days for the effects of deadlines, actions and legal terms that the Law establishes.

<https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/Comunicado%2520Termino%2520legal> 0.pdf

SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Economic Development determines curfew maintenance (March 18, 2020)

- Curfew is maintained with the exception that, for the population to be supplied, markets of different types and food sales can open from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

- On the other hand, the freezing of prices of products related to hygiene, basic basket, and home is decreed. The population is encouraged to report any violation of consumer rights.

<https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/CO NGELAMIENTO%2520PRECIOS> 0.pdf



The Ministry of Economic Development freezes prices through the Consumer Protection Directorate controls (March 12, 2020)

- Antibacterial and ethyl alcohol prices are frozen until April 10, 2020, through Ministerial Agreement no. 018-2020. There will be sanctions for those who establish surcharges to the consumer.

Acuerdo Ministerial No. 018-2020 emitido por la Secretaría de Desarrollo Económico

HONDURAS NATIONAL POLICE

The National Police issues press release (March 15, 2020)

- Issued by the Honduran National Police, you must: Comply with the restriction on meetings of more than 50 people; Temporarily suspend the licensing process for the first time; Attend for renewal and payment processes; Address requests for a permit to carry a weapon (50 permits per day maximum); Address criminal history requests (50 people per day and 50 people in the afternoon).

https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/15-03-2020-14.47.14_0.pdf

The National Police issues press release (March 17, 2020)

- The closing of the accesses to the Central District, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca and La Ceiba is confirmed with the exceptions decreed by the Executive Power. The warning for patients to present documents to the police authority that is on public roads is established. The population is reminded that the rest of the national territory is on a curfew from 8:00 PM on March 17 until 6:00 AM. from March 18, 2020

https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/COMUNICADO%25201%2520tiempo%2520extra%2520CORONAVIRUS%2520_0.pdf

The National Police issues press release (March 18, 2020)

- The permit for fueling is established, for the acquisition of food, medicine, and bank procedures. Absolute curfew must be resumed at 5:00 P.M. in the following cities Distrito Central, La Ceiba, and Choluteca
- The order is given to banking institutions, pharmacies and supermarkets to verify the temperature of the citizens who come to their establishment with a stay in the premises of 20 minutes maximum.

<https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/ventana-en-toque-de-queda.pdf>

The National Police issues a press release (March 19, 2020)



- Curfew is established after midnight for the cities of Puerto Cortés, Santa Cruz de Yojoa and El Triunfo in the department of Choluteca, starting on March 19, 2020. This does not apply to the port of Puerto Cortes. Workers at this port must demonstrate to the authorities that they do work there and that they are on their way to work.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/COMUNICADO%2520DE%2520PRENSA%2520Medidas%2520viernes_0.pdf

The National Police issues a press release (March 20, 2020)

- An absolute curfew is declared in the national territory until March 29 at 3:00 PM. Small food sales centers are authorized to sell products. Supermarkets, pharmacies, grocery stores, tortillerías, bakeries, and express delivery services are authorized to deliver products at home. The agricultural, agro-industrial, agro-export and food distributor sectors can continue with their work. Foreigners who want to return to their country must request authorization.
- <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/COMUNICADO%2520TOQUE%2520ABSOLUTO.pdf>

RENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE (SAR)

SAR prohibits personal attention (March 15, 2020)

- To avoid crowds, from Monday, March 16 personal attention is restricted at the SAR facilities, to accord with the termination of the National Tax Registry (RTN) for natural persons.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/COMUNICADO%2520ATENCIO%25CC%2581N%2520RESTRINGIDA%2520%25281%2529.pdf.pdf.pdf_0.pdf

HONDURAN INSTITUTE OF LAND TRANSPORT (IHTT)

The Honduran Institute of Land Transport confirms to the general public that it continues operating. (March 14, 2020)

- It is confirmed that the public transport of people in all its modalities must continue to operate, following the recommendations made by the Ministry of Health.
- The receipt, processing and granting of eventual permits are suspended, even the effects of those authorized before the emergency decree.
- It is prohibited to transport more than 50 people in transport units in the modality of Urban and Interurban Transport.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/Comunicado%2520IHTT%2520%25281%2529_0.pdf

CUSTOMS

The Honduran Customs Administration is strengthening its relations with El Salvador at the international border. (March 14, 2020)

- Commercial operators and freight forwarders are advised that due to the COVID-19 emergency, the Honduran Government and the Republic of El Salvador have agreed to streamline the trade



of goods between the two countries through their border customs at El Poy, El Amatillo and Mocalempa. No ban has been issued so far regarding the transport of goods from one border to another. Drivers who may pass through with their identity cards are not authorized to bring companions.

- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/Comunicado%2520IHTT%2520%25281%2529_0.pdf

The Honduran Customs Administration confirms regular operation in the course of trade (March 17, 2020)

- According to studies by the World Health Organization (WHO), there is no evidence to support the transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods. Therefore, the various customs facilities of the country will be open and operating normally.
- Customs Administration employees are instructed to follow the safety and hygiene protocol in the workplace. This includes keeping a distance of at least one meter from each other.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/COMUNICADO%2520SUSPENSION%2520GARANTIAS%2520CONSTITUCIONALES_0.pdf

The Customs Administration through its certification CUSTOMS-SG-059-2020 approves the Transitory Measures For Customs Operations During the Sanitary Emergency COVID-19 (March 24, 2020)

- The authorization of the country's customs is guaranteed uninterrupted with the ordinary processing of customs procedures. Incapable periods are declared and the limitation and expiration periods are suspended. DUCA is temporarily authorized to support the verification of the documents required by printing, QR codes, scanning of the required documents.
- <https://www.aduanas.gob.hn/certificacion-no-aduanas-sg-059-2020/>

CIVIL AERONAUTICS

Civil Aeronautics informs through Communicate #2 the decision to close airports (March 17, 2020)

- The following airports will be closed: Toncontín International Airport, Golosón International Airport, and Juan Manuel Galvez International Airport.
- The Villeda Morales International Airport will continue to operate only for cargo, supply and, strictly exceptional flights from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM; such flights must obtain prior authorization from the competent authority.
- https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/Comunicado%2520Aeropuertos%2520de%2520Honduras_0.pdf

Civil Aeronautics informs through Communicate #3 that it maintains the closure of airports (March 20, 2020)

- The closure of operations is maintained at the Toncontín, Golosón and Juan Manuel Galv3ez Airports. Ram3n Villeda Morales Airport will provide air traffic service from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM



for regular and non-regular cargo flights. Authorization is required for air transportation of equipment and spare parts for hospital use, medicines and other donations, as well as for humanitarian aid operations to transport passengers affected by the emergency.

https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://covid19honduras.org/sites/default/files/COMUNICADO%25203%2520-%252021%2520March%25202019_0.pdf

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