

## ITAC Covid19 communique to stakeholders

**Date:** 19 May 2020

Stakeholders will recall that on 26 March 2020, Minister Patel declared ITAC an essential service, in terms of Regulation 10(8)(c) which states that:

“Any Minister may issue and vary directions, as required, within his or her mandate, to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19, from time to time, as may be required, including—...

(c) taking any other steps that may be necessary to prevent an escalation of the national state of disaster, or to alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of the national state of disaster;”

In terms of the Regulations promulgated under the Disaster Management Act, 2002, the Chief Commissioner of ITAC, Mr Meluleki Nzimande, determined the essential services to be performed by ITAC, stating in the Communication to Stakeholders that ITAC will be available for processing of critical Rebate and Import & Export permits and as far as possible, continue with on-going work remotely in order to prevent unnecessary delays in investigations.

In accordance with the President’s announcement on 23 April 2020 of the easing of the lockdown with effect from 1 May 2020, ITAC wishes to update its communication to all stakeholders as more fully set out below.

ITAC has scaled up operations as from Monday, 4 May 2020, subject to the limitations set out in the Disaster Management Act, 2002 and the Regulations promulgated thereunder.

The shift from alert level 5 to alert level 4 entails continuing certain services which were rendered during the strict lockdown (see Annexure D of the Regulations dated 29 April 2020) but introduced ‘permitted’ services. The introduction of permitted services marks the beginning of the opening up the economy in a phased manner by Government.

With the gradual opening of business, the agricultural sector, manufacturing (including, amongst others, the automotive industry), wholesale and retail, supply chains, recycling etc., ITAC will, as far as possible, provide services to assist stakeholders.

In this regard ITAC will render the following services:

### **Import & Export Control**

Senior Manager: Import & Export Control - Marius Collins Email: ([mcollins@itac.org.za](mailto:mcollins@itac.org.za)).

Applications for ITAC export permits required in terms of COVID-19 Export Regulations must be submitted electronically to the following officials:

- **MEDICINES:**

Mr Donovan Mitchell: [dmitchell@itac.org.za](mailto:dmitchell@itac.org.za)

Ms Aarifah Ahmed: [aahmed@itac.org.za](mailto:aahmed@itac.org.za)

- **MASKS:**

Ms Dudu Mogale: [dmogale@itac.org.za](mailto:dmogale@itac.org.za)

Mr Ernest Roman: [eroman@itac.org.za](mailto:eroman@itac.org.za)

Ms Eleanor Graff: [egraff@itac.org.za](mailto:egraff@itac.org.za)

- **SANITISERS AND DISINFECTANTS:**

Mr Sanjay Devnath: [sdevnath@itac.org.za](mailto:sdevnath@itac.org.za)

Ms Maritha Raman: [mraman@itac.org.za](mailto:mraman@itac.org.za)

In the case of all other permit applications, the industry is advised to submit applications to the import and export control managers, Mr Sanjay Devnath and Mr Donovan Mitchell on the e-mail addresses above. Note that only applications for goods falling under sectors which are permitted to operate under lockdown alert level 4 may currently be processed.

### Tariff Investigations

Senior Managers:

Ms Rika Theart - Tariff Investigations I ([rtheart@itac.org.za](mailto:rtheart@itac.org.za))

Ms Nomonde Somdaka - Tariff Investigations II ([nsomdaka@itac.org.za](mailto:nsomdaka@itac.org.za))

ITAC will be receiving and processing rebate permit applications pertaining to **rebate item 412.11**, which provides for:

*“Goods imported for the relief of distress of persons in cases of famine or national disaster; under any technical assistance agreement or in terms of an obligation under any multilateral international agreement”*

Permit applications in terms of Rebate Item 412.11 for disaster relief as a result of COVID-19 must be submitted electronically to Mr Christopher Sako: [csako@itac.org.za](mailto:csako@itac.org.za)

Holders of ITAC rebate permits issued under Rebate Item 412.11 (“**Current Permits**”) are reminded that Current Permits are due to expire at midnight on 31 May 2020 (“**Expiry Date**”). Any portion of the quota allocated in Current Permits which remains unused by the Expiry Date will be forfeited. Should ITAC continue to issue rebate permits under Rebate Item 412.11 after the Expiry Date, any party desiring to continue to benefit under Rebate Item 412.11 **must** apply for a **new** permit.

Parties are aware that ITAC administers rebate and drawback permits other than those falling under Rebate Item 412.11 (“**Ordinary Permits**”). Applications for Ordinary Permits will be considered, *inter alia*, with reference to applicable “Alert Levels” of the national lockdown as set out in the Regulations published in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002.

Automotive Production Development Program (APDP) – All applications for the Production Rebate Credit Certificates (PRCC) and Company Specific Percentages (CSP) for the calculation of the Volume Assembly Allowance will continue to be handled in accordance with the procedure which was communicated to industry on 4 May 2020 as follows:

- Applications for Production Rebate Credit Certificates (PRCCs) and Company Specific Percentages (CSP) are to be delivered at the DTI Campus at the gate on Meintjies Street (between blocks C and F. A box labelled “ITAC” has been placed at the gate for this purpose;
- All applications will be stamped and acknowledged as soon as they are received;
- The stamp date will be regarded as the date of receipt of the application;
- Applicants must email a copy of the waybill as proof of submission; and
- Applicants who had submitted electronic applications during the lockdown period are required to re-submit the original version of the applications to ITAC. Currently the guidelines prescribe that original documents be submitted when applying for PRCCs and CSPs.

For any questions relating to such applications, applicants may contact Ms Nonhlanhla Khumalo by email at [nkhumalo@itac.org.za](mailto:nkhumalo@itac.org.za)

### **Trade Remedies**

Senior Managers:

Ms Carina Janse van Vuuren: Trade Remedies I ([cvanvuuren@itac.org.za](mailto:cvanvuuren@itac.org.za)); and

Ms Zoleka Xabendlini: Trade Remedies II ([zxabendlini@itac.org.za](mailto:zxabendlini@itac.org.za)).

### **On-going investigations:**

Questionnaire responses should still be submitted within the prescribed time periods by participating exporters, unless an extension has been granted as provided for in the relevant Regulations. Exporters are advised that international travel, and therefore on the spot verifications, remain suspended for the time being but that all efforts will be made to verify the information submitted by conducting desktop verifications. Exporters are therefore requested to submit additional information, where necessary, via e-mail to enable desktop verification. Exporters are advised that if verification of the information submitted by them cannot take place, the Commission may disregard the information submitted and make a finding on the basis of the facts available to it.

Importers are advised that questionnaire responses must be submitted electronically within the prescribed time periods, unless an extension has been granted as provided for in the relevant Regulations. Importers are advised that on-the-spot verifications remain suspended for the time being and all efforts will be made to verify the information submitted by conducting desktop verifications. Importers are therefore requested to submit additional information, where necessary or required, via e-mail to enable desktop verification.

Importers are advised that if verification of the information submitted by them cannot take place, the Commission may disregard the information submitted and make a finding on the basis of the facts available to it.

New applications:

New applications can be submitted electronically to the Senior Managers mentioned above. Arrangements can be made directly with these Senior Managers for submission of hard copy applications.

Applicants are advised that all efforts will be made to verify the information submitted to ITAC by conducting desktop verifications. Applicants are requested to submit additional information, where necessary or required, via e-mail to enable desktop verification. If verification of the information submitted cannot take place, the Commission will not be able to proceed with initiation of investigations.