



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

RSA Border authorities agree to relax conditions on movement of goods following LRA's intervention.

Maseru, 10th June 2020: Last week the South African border authorities at Maseru Bridge took a unilateral decision to impose strict measures on movement of goods across the South African borders as part of enforcement of lockdown level 3 regulations. This decision resulted in trucks from Lesotho being barred from crossing the border and thus causing a huge uproar. The Lesotho Revenue Authority then requested a meeting with the South African authorities to discuss the matter and come up with an amicable solution. The reason for imposing the strict measures, according to South African authorities, was due to abuse of procedures by some Basotho who pose as traders in order to go shopping in South Africa in violation of the RSA level 3 restrictions.

The deliberations between the parties then led to an agreement to relax the requirements. Since the movement of persons and goods over the borders is still restricted due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic, the following conditions to ease movement across the border during Republic of South Africa (RSA) Lockdown Period – Level 3 were agreed upon:

1. Movement of goods

Only registered logistics companies delivering goods in RSA or Lesotho may be allowed movement (round-trip) i.e. truck drivers, fuel tankers, courier companies. These companies should meet the following conditions:

1. Availability of Import/Exporter code for the importer, which is a SARS requirement.

2. Certified copy of the Traders License instead of original.
3. Certified copy of the Tax Clearance Certificate instead of original.
4. Copy of the Quotation/ Order/ Manifest for the goods to be collected.

Unregistered companies or traders collecting goods in RSA must produce the following:

1. Importer/Exporter registration permit issued by SARS (the physical permit not just the code);
2. Business documents corresponding with the Import/Exporter permit;
3. Permit to perform essential services, corresponding with all of the above; and
4. Invoice/Order to proof that they are collecting goods, corresponding with all of the above.

2. Essential services

Essential services providers may be allowed movement (round trip) provided that they produce the following:

1. Business documents;
2. Business Permit to perform essential services;
3. Letter from the employer to perform essential services;
4. Proof from the contracting party that they will be rendering services to the contracting party; and
5. If they have goods, they must be declared with SARS.

These institutions (essential services providers) are encouraged to approach the SAHC (South African High Commission) in Maseru if they wish to fetch or collect goods in RSA. They may also be allowed to exchange goods at the Port (in these instances, SARS and SAPS must be involved).

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