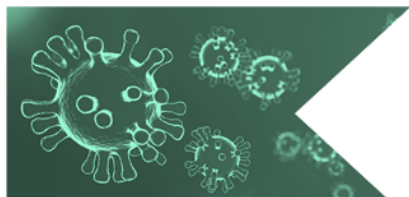


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SAMED
south african medical technology industry association

COVID-19 NEWS

COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

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SAMED ON COVID-19

The [SAMED Library](#) is a dedicated resource for all COVID-19 related updates, regulations, notices and news. All SAMED COVID-19 updates and related information can be found [here](#).

Book your calendar: Member Forum - Competition law & pricing in light of COVID-19

Please see the invitation below. Please [complete the anonymous survey on this link](#) prior to the meeting to aid us in understanding the COVID-19 impact on members.

Competition Law and Pricing

07 May 2020



Speaker: Heather Irvine
Competition Lawyer
Bowmans

Join us for a short webinar on competition law issues raised by COVID-19, which will cover the following topics:

- The recent exemptions for collaboration in the healthcare industry passed by Minister Patel;
- What competitors can do: pro-competitive joint ventures (e.g. joint sourcing of products/inputs and logistics)
- What competitors can't do: discussion of selling prices, collectively bargaining against customers, collective boycotts
- Potential complaints to the competition authorities about abuses by dominant purchasers?

Please Note: This would be a general info session and there will be no discussion of specific sellers, prices or buyers on the call.

Date: 07 May 2020, Thursday
Venue: Virtual Meeting
Time: 11:00 – 12:00

**Click this link
to Join**

Please only click the link at the above, specified date/time.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

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PLEASE PARTICIPATE: BSA COVID-19 products and company information portal.

This effort is part of the broader SAMED collaboration with the Minister of Health via Business Unity South Africa's "Business for South Africa" initiative (BSA). During the current pandemic, up-to-date information is critical to ensure all key stakeholders in the value chain make the best-informed decisions at the right time.

The information collected on the covid19manager.co.za platform will be used to ensure supplier verification, regulatory compliance, product availability, reasonable pricing and providing the accurate and most up-to-date logistical information to the procurement department division at BSA to place orders from you and/or assist with ramping up local production. It is an automated process to help facilitate the overwhelming demand currently being experienced in South Africa during the weeks to come. The SAMED office, IDC, the dti, Minister of Health and the BSA procurement team will have access to the data. No data will be shared with other suppliers.

NOTE: THIS IS A LIVE SYSTEM SO PLEASE UPDATE YOUR STOCK QUANTITIES AND LEAD TIME AS AND WHEN THEY CHANGE.

Please see the following [link to the video](#) for an explanation of how to use the portal and click on <https://covid19manager.co.za/> to add your company and product information.

You will most likely be contacted by a member of the BSA procurement team should your information provided need to be verified or an order need to be placed. In this regard, we have put in place a security measure. The BSA procurement team will always supply you with your security code that only you have access to on the portal. See the video for reference as to where to find this code. Please never share or read this code to anyone but only have them read it back to you for validation. If at any point you feel your security code is compromised please let Tanya Vogt (tanya@samed.org.za) know and it will be reset.

We are extremely appreciative of the support and commitment of our members in fighting this pandemic.

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DO YOU HAVE A COVID-19 QUESTION OR QUERY?

Please visit the [FAQ Section](#) of our library as it provides answers to many of the frequently asked questions we receive.

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- What is the difference between critical supplies and essential goods?
- What do we need to know about the importation of critical supplies or essential goods to the national state of disaster (COVID-19 pandemic)?
- Do I need to apply for the VAT exemption under rebate item 412.11?
- Where can I find the certificate issued in terms of Schedule 1(8) of the Value Added Tax Act, 1991, item 412.11/00.00/01.00 (RE: SARS Essential Goods List)?

Find the answer to these and other questions [here](#).

Disaster Management Tax Relief FAQ's for Employees' Tax, ETI and Provisional Tax

- Who are qualifying taxpayers?
- What are the requirements to claim the tax relief?
- What is the Employment Tax Incentive (ETI) tax relief?
- What is the Employees' Tax Deferral?

Find the answer to these and other questions [here](#).

COVID-19 UPDATES, NOTICES, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

COVID-19: Level 4: Short list of to-do's

Below is a short list of to-do's/considerations to comply with the new risk-level regulations

1. Can services be rendered from home or by telehealth?
2. Is our business or practice included in table 1, for during the day services?
3. Establish whether any staff would need to cross provincial boundaries to return to work.
4. Designate for your practice/business a COVID-19 Compliance Officer
5. Develop your Annexure E Plan
6. Phase in the return of your employees
7. Develop Health & Safety Measures in line with Regulations and Directions issued
8. Re-design or supplement your practice or businesses Terms & Conditions
9. For practices, develop or amend your consent forms
10. Other considerations

Please ensure you have **new Permits** for your staff or existing permits that include both the place of work and the place of residence (Reg16(2)(b)). **Download the new permit template** [here](#).

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BSA Update: Return2Work workplace readiness tools

A number of workplace readiness tools have been developed to help businesses that are reopening to put in place the necessary occupational health and safety provisions to enable a safe Return2Work.

1. **Workplace readiness practice note** - provides minimum practice guidelines for all employers to resume operations safely and minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission to workers. **Download it** [here](#).
2. **CEO declaration template** - confirmation that the employer has completed the required procedures and planning processes to safely resume operations at level 4 lockdown. **Download it** [here](#).
3. **Risk assessment and management tool** - a planning tool to aid a company to assess their COVID-19 related risks (tab 1) and then put in place plans and controls to mitigate those risks (tab 2). Note that this should be done with the workplace occupational health and safety committee, if applicable. **Download it** [here](#).
4. **Risk-adjusted strategy regulations** – note in particular page 15 and Annexure E that have been included in the practice note and CEO declaration. **Download it** [here](#).

Note, these documents seek to incorporate all the relevant official requirements but do not replace the law. If a business has already assessed its occupational health and safety risks and put in place a plan, the business need not use these tools. The material is provided for guidance in the absence of the

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required for reporting or compliance purposes.

For more information [click here](#).



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Return to Work Toolkit

As the country moves to Level 4 stage of Lockdown, the President has identified a few key considerations that affected business will need to build into their Return to Work considerations. This is not an attempt to identify each and every requirement as the needs, regulations and requirements of every business will differ. It is a general guideline seeking to identify key considerations for organisations as they navigate the coming months. Demanding a strategic, yet hands-on, flexible thinking.

Download the Pons Process Consulting Toolkit [here](#).

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COMMENT: Disaster Management Tax Relief Bills

National Treasury and the South African Revenue Service (SARS) publish, for public comment, the **revised 2020 Draft Disaster Management Tax Relief Bill** and **2020 Draft Disaster Management Tax Relief Administration Bill**. These Bills give effect to the media statement issued by National Treasury on [24 April 2020](#) regarding further tax measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, following the address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on [21 April 2020](#).

Comments can be sent to 2020AnnexCProp@treasury.gov.za and acollins@sars.gov.za by close of business on Friday, 15 May 2020

The revised 2020 Draft Disaster Management Tax Relief Bill and the 2020 Draft Disaster Management Tax Relief Administration Bill provide the necessary legislative amendments required to implement the further tax measures aimed at combating the COVID-19 pandemic and also take into account public comments received on the initial batch of COVID-19 draft tax bills published on 1 April 2020.

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SAHPRA Medical Device Hotline

SAHPRA has launched a COVID-19 Medical Device Hotline to deal with COVID-19 related queries.



SAHPRA COVID-19 Medical Device Hotline

Commencing on Tuesday 14 April 2020,
The SAHPRA Medical Device Hotline will be active. Direct all COVID-Related queries
relating to Medical Devices to the following Hotline numbers.

084 220 8037

072 993 2273

078 281 6334

Hours of Operation: (Excluding weekends and public holidays)

08:00 – 16:00



Download this notice, [here](#).

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Department of Small Business Development: Small business support programmes in response to COVID-19:

The Minister of Small Business Development, accompanied by the Deputy Minister, updated the Portfolio and Select Committees in a joint virtual meeting on the implementation of the COVID-19 response programmes by the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD).

DSBD's main programmes were the SMME Debt Relief Fund and the Business Growth/Resilience Facility. However, the latter had been placed on hold because of the demand for debt relief. To date, 759 SMMEs have been assisted using R280 million of the R530 million budget at a rate of approximately R350 000 per SMME. To cater for the deficit due to new applications, those SMMEs needing payroll assistance are being moved to UIF assistance and DSBD is looking for further funding and means to assist SMMEs. Assistance granted is also in the form of loans and not grants at a repayment rate of prime minus five percent.

Download the minutes of the meeting [here](#).

The Department of Small Business Development has put together a response plan in light of COVID-19 aimed at small business. The purpose is to:

1. To share the interventions that have been introduced as part of the relief measures.
2. To share practical plans that are aimed at supporting SMMEs to recovery post the "hard lockdown".
3. To also present a plan on the differentiated interventions aimed at supporting various categories of informal businesses.

Download the presentation [here](#).

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COVID-19 Update & Government Response: Minister & Department briefing

The Portfolio Committee on Health met jointly with the Select Committee on Health and Social Services. The aim of the meeting was to get a briefing from the Minister and his team on the progress the Department and South Africa as a whole were making in the global pandemic of COVID-19. The Department provided an in-depth exposition on the new risk-adjusted strategy for the resumption of

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The Solidarity Fund uniting South Africa against COVID-19

The Solidarity Fund provided more details on its purpose and mandate of mobilising and coordinating efforts and resources from all South Africans and the international community to assist most vulnerable South Africans to deal with the impact of Covid19 and the consequences of measures intended to slow its rate of infection. One of its key focus areas is a Health Response with direct support for the healthcare system, augmenting both the private and government healthcare sectors to ensure they have what they need, as well as enabling emergency supplies.

Details on how to donate are available on the Fund's website www.solidarityfund.co.za

For more information email info@solidarityfund.co.za

For offers of supply of Medicines and Medical Devices send

to covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za

If you are seeking PPE for your hospital, clinic, or NGO please email your request

to covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za

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COVID-19 RELATED PRODUCT REQUESTS

Request for infrared digital thermometers

If you are a supplier of infrared digital thermometers and currently have stock, please contact James Meakings on the details below. This device is required for screening staff.

Contact James Meakings, Azochem Laboratories Pty Ltd: 083 651 2320

or james.meakings@azochem.co.za

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COVID-19 EVENTS

EKA Work Sessions

A special session is arranged relating to UIF / **TERS benefit** that can be claimed, as well as the **labour law implications of Covid-19**. Yvonne, from Elsabe Klinck and Associates, will take attendees through the requirements of labour law (e.g. can you send employees on unpaid leave?), how to regularise your UIF status and how to claim from the TERS if you are unable to pay staff or had been unable to do so in the past- and/or coming months.

WHEN: 7 May 2020, 18:00 - 20:00

COST: R500, excl. VAT

BOOKINGS: eugenia@elsabeklinckassociates.co.za

Download the EKA Worksession form [here](#).

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BSA Risk Assessment Presentation

Business for SA has performed a comprehensive risk assessment of the significant strategic risks arising from the COVID-19 crisis. The risk assessment has gone beyond the conventional two-dimensional approach to depicting risk and has taken a four-dimensional view by including considerations of risk interconnectedness and velocity. This enables consideration of the contagion effect of risks and will assist to identify and highlight those risks which, when addressed, will have the greatest effect on mitigating the other risks. **To view the full document,** [click here](#).

Given the technical nature of the assessment set out in this report BSA would encourage the participation of the presentation sessions as per the slots below:

Tues, 05 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Tues, 12 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Wed, 06 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Wed, 13 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Thurs, 07 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

Thurs, 14 May; 07:30 to 08:30am

To enrol for any of the above sessions please contact: Daniella de Gouveia: +27 66 307 0846 or

Daniella.de.Gouveia@businessresponsecovid19.co.za

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TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

- South Africa's COVID-19 cases have risen by 447 to a total of 6 783. This is the first time the numbers have increased by more than 400 cases in a day.
- Health Minister Zwelini Mkhize announced the increase on 3 May, adding that eight more people had died, bringing the number of South Africans who died due to the coronavirus to 131.
- As of 30 April, 7 216 777 citizens had been screened through the Community Screening Programme. Of these, 72 087 had been referred for testing. The testing had increased from 230 686 cases to 245 747 on Sunday night. More than 2700 people were screened during roadblocks on the N14 in Ventersdorp, Brandvlei and the N1 North freeway, on Sunday, and five were taken in for testing. Minister Mkhize also reported that hypertension, diabetes and cardiac disease are among the most common co-morbidities associated with serious COVID-19 cases in the country.
- The DA plans to submit Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) applications to compel provincial health departments to release detailed COVID-19 statistics daily. DA said only the Western Cape and Gauteng (although in a limited fashion) were releasing daily stats which are broken down into regions, fatalities and tests conducted.
- The coronavirus pandemic may last until 2022, according to [a report](#) published Thursday. A group of researchers at the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) suggest that the COVID-19 outbreak won't end until 60% to 70% of the human population [is immune](#) to the virus, which may take between 18 and 24 months.
- Russia reported a record number of new coronavirus cases for the fourth consecutive day Sunday, as the virus rapidly spreads in the country, which is fast becoming one of the global epicentres of COVID-19.

ECONOMICS, POLITICS, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL

- A renewed commitment to hygiene is propping up sales of previously out-of-favour plastics like **polystyrene**, as consumers relegate environmental priorities while trying to stay clear of the coronavirus. For a [plastics industry](#) that's grappling with a drop in demand for household goods and cars, the resurgence is a welcome break. About 15 million tons of polystyrene are produced globally every year, and the material is used widely in cars and hospital ventilators as well as takeaway coffee cups and food packaging. That said, the change in sentiment will probably be temporary, according to an international industry insider, as the passing of the COVID-19 crisis brings about a renewed call for action to prevent climate change and ocean pollution. In South Africa, Nampak CEO Erik Smuts predicts the trend will persist among those whose disposable income will be squeezed the most, especially if the pandemic sparks a recession.
- The Department of Higher Education and Training has decided not to resume campus-based activity when Level 4 of the lockdown commences on Friday. The department will use this phase for planning and preparation at all universities and TVET colleges, as well as the mobilisation of resources. "Our collective efforts during this period remains that of putting appropriate **remote learning support systems** in place for all our PSET (post-school education and training) institutions, using whatever means available, while preparing our institutional capacities for the eventual return of students and staff once conditions permit such," Minister Blade Nzimande said. "As a result of high uncertainty and the fluid social context imposed by the viral threat on every aspect of South African society, it is not possible to determine with any measure of certainty the dates when a physical return to campuses for the bulk of our students will be possible. Until we reach that point, every effort is now being made to put in place multiple and flexible methods of teaching and learning to support all our institutions and all our students". The Minister confirmed that the **National Student Financial Aid Scheme** (NSFAS) will continue to fund students while the 2020 academic year. "Given the fact that all our universities have already disbursed learning material allowances to their NSFAS-supported students, I would like to urge our students who have not as yet utilised their allowances to use them to purchase appropriate electronic learning devices to support their learning during this time."
- One of the key tenets of the government's mooted **National Health Insurance** is that public and private healthcare be able to [share patient data](#) as the person moves through the system. This data should be secured and only shared with the patient's permission. With NHI only due to come into force in 2026, the COVID-19 pandemic is highlighting more than ever that the healthcare sector needs to relook at how it manages patient data sooner, rather than later. There also needs to be increasing focus on the quality of data, which must be captured correctly from the outset in order to create a unique patient identifier.
- BBC correspondents predict [what life will look like](#) after COVID-19. They explore working hours and conditions, clothing retail, tech, culture, travel and geopolitics.

CLINICAL & SCIENCE NEWS

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- The South African government has an [updated price list for critical](#) equipment to fight COVID-19 – and it is willing to pay a lot more for some items than it was two weeks ago.
- The US has denied it placed any restrictions on the export of COVID-19 [test kits](#), contradicting statements by Health Minister Zweli Mkhize before Parliament this week. Mkhize told the Health Portfolio Committee on Monday there were problems with supplies of test kits for the National Health Laboratory Service's (NHLS) GeneXpert machines - a crucial element of plans to ramp up testing for Covid-19.

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