



Italy: COVID-19

Urgent measures to limit the spread of Coronavirus

Tax & Legal Alert

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On 22 March, the Italian government published a Decree, introducing urgent measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Basically, the Decree suspends all industrial and commercial activities except for those listed in an attachment to the Decree, and other essential activities cited in the Decree.

The suspensions apply to the whole of Italy and are effective from 23 March until 3 April 2020.

Suspended businesses have until 25 March to prepare for the suspension.

Following below is an informal English translation of the main provisions of the Decree, together with an English translation of the list of activities (identified by their ATECO codes) that are not suspended ([Attachment 1](#) to the Decree).

Businesses operating in Italy should check whether their activities are included in Attachment 1 or in the other categories of non-suspended activities mentioned in other parts of the Decree (please see below).

1. *In order to contrast and contain the spread of COVID-19, the following measures apply to the whole of Italy.*

- a. *All industrial and commercial activities are suspended, except for those listed in [Attachment 1](#) and except as indicated herein. Professional services are not suspended. The activity codes listed in Attachment 1 may be changed by a decree of the Minister of Economic Growth, in accordance with the Minister of the Economy and Finance.*
- b. *All individuals are prohibited from moving, by public or private transport, from the municipality in which they are currently located to another, except for proven work reasons, reasons of the utmost urgency, or health reasons.*
- c. *Business activities that should be suspended in accordance with letter a) above may continue if organized through smart working.*

- d. *Activities necessary to ensure the continuity of the supply chain for the activities listed in **Attachment 1**, as well as the continuity of public utilities and of the essential services listed in letter e) below, are not suspended, subject to notification to be given to the Prefect of the area where the activities are located; the notification must specifically include a list of the businesses and of the public authorities that benefit from the products and services supporting the non-suspended activities; the Prefect may suspend the aforementioned activities if he/she believes that the above conditions are not met. Until the issuance of a suspension order, the activity will be lawfully exercised on the basis of the notification given.*
- e. *The provision of public utilities is allowed, as is the provision of the essential services listed in Law no. 146 of 12 June 1990. However, activities related to the opening of museums and other cultural institutions, as well as activities related to educational services not provided remotely, remain suspended.*
- f. *The production, transport and sale of medicines, healthcare technologies, medical/surgical equipment and agricultural and food products are not suspended. Any activity that is required in facing the emergency is not suspended.*
- g. *The activities of non-stop production plants are permitted – subject to notification given to the Prefect of the area where the activities are located – if suspension of the activities could cause significant damage or entail the risk of accidents. The Prefect may order the suspension of the activities if he/she believes that these conditions are not met. The activity may be exercised on the basis of the notification until a suspension order is issued. Notification is not required if the activity of the plant ensures provision of an essential public service.*
- h. *Subject to authorization of the Prefect of the area where they are located, the activities of the aerospace and defence industries and activities of strategic importance to the Italian economy are not suspended.*
2. *The Prefect will inform the President of the Region, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Economic Growth, the Minister of Labour and Social Policies, and the police of all notifications received and orders issued.*
 3. *Businesses whose activity is not suspended must comply with the protocol signed on 14 March 2020 between the government and the social partners to combat and limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the workplace.*

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