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Coronavirus: Measures on commercial activity

In the context of mitigating the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, the Ministry of Commerce has approved Executive Decree No. 143/ 20 of 9 April, which establishes a set of measures aimed at maintaining commercial activity across the whole country during the State of Emergency.

a) Commercial chain

The commercial chain of products and services continues as follows:

- 1st - Importer and/or producer to the wholesaler;
- 2nd - Wholesaler to the retailer;
- 3rd - Retailer to the end consumer.

b) Opening hours

Commercial and service establishments authorised to remain open are subject to a single schedule, opening at 8:00am and closing at 4:00pm.

The permitted formal and informal markets will open at 6:00am and close at 1:00pm.

c) Restrictions on street trading, market vendors and marketplace benches

Marketplace bench trading in urban, suburban and rural municipal markets and individual street trading are allowed exclusively for the sale of essential products, such as (i) industrial, agricultural and fish products, (ii) hygiene and cleaning products and cosmetics and (iii) cooking gas. The capacity of the spaces and the minimum distance of one metre between the seller and the buyer must be observed.

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Market vendor activity is suspended during the State of Emergency.

Informal street markets and similar places involving concentrations of people are prohibited.

Biosafety conditions

Individuals or entities engaged in any commercial activity providing market services or any other service of public interest inherent to the commerce sector must ensure the establishment in question complies with specific biosafety conditions. These conditions encompass hygiene and health measures that guarantee the health safety of employees, users and the public in general, including:

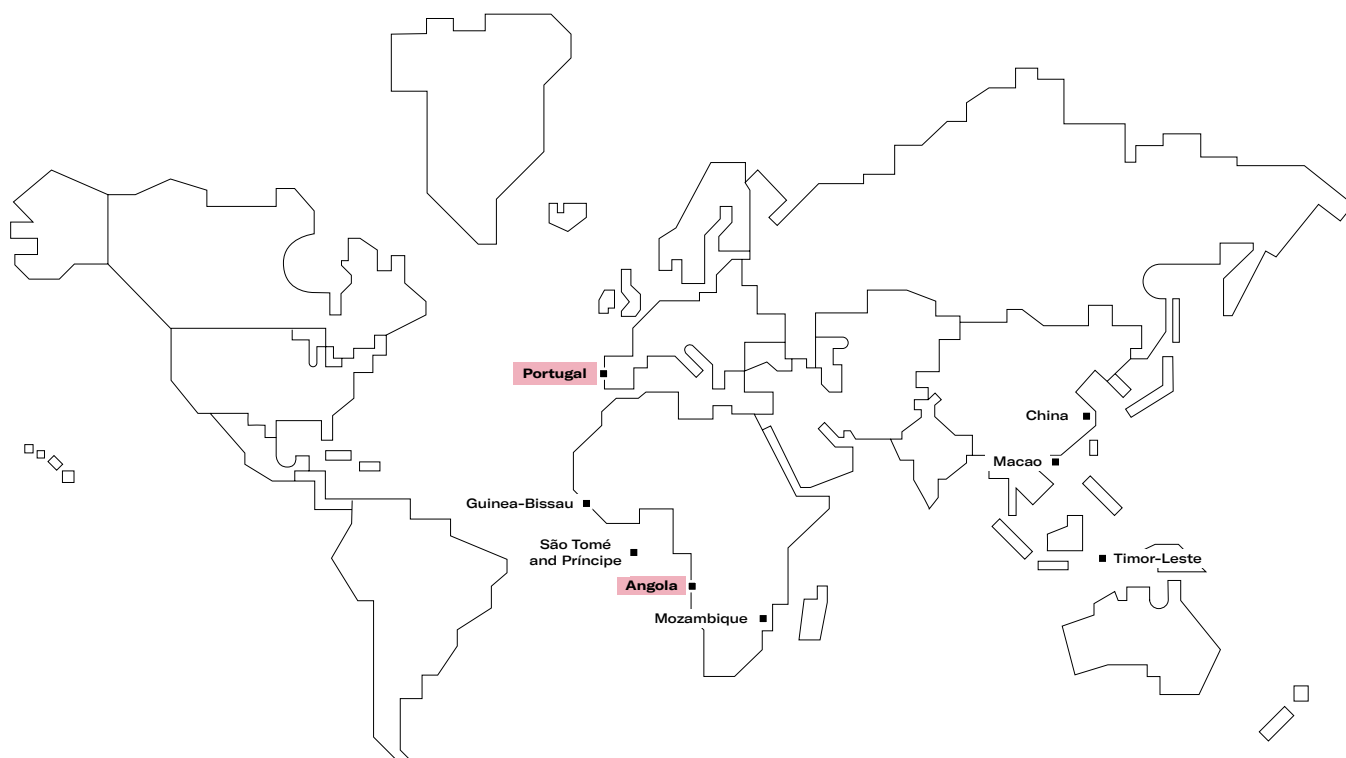
- a) Making 70% alcohol or gel alcohol available at the entrance and the necessary means for users hygiene;
- b) Establishing a limited number of users inside the premises to avoid crowding and ensure a minimum distance of one metre between users;
- c) Maintaining the hygiene and healthiness of the products and the means used in the provision of any service;
- d) Temporarily replacing the automatic employee attendance control system (biometric);
- e) Installing acrylics or glass in the service area;
- f) Reinforce the stock of goods for one month, depending on the available storage space;
- g) Suspending the mandatory process of joint counting of orders;
- h) Ensuring the disinfection of the distribution trays and distribution vehicles, which must have bottles of 70% alcohol or gel alcohol;
- i) Ensuring the use of masks by employees who provide services to the public;
- j) Ensuring the mandatory use of gloves by all employees connected to the distribution;
- k) Prohibiting the entry into and exit from the workplace while wearing the uniform;
- l) Ensuring a mandatory bath before entering the service area;
- m) Recommending hand washing every two hours for all employees;
- n) Evaluating the work of employees considered at risk and with a proven clinical history (people over 60, with respiratory problems, hypertension, diabetes and others);

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- o) Establishing the remote (home) working arrangements for all people who can continue their work at a distance;
- p) Establishing that social isolation cannot be considered a holiday period and that employees must remain contactable to support minimum services of the company's operation;
- q) Sharing information and raising awareness among consumers and employees, using booklets, digital channels, social networks and traditional media.

The Executive Decree entered into force on 9 of April 2020. ■

"Establishing that social isolation cannot be considered a holiday period and that employees must remain contactable to support minimum services of the company's operation."



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