

UK India Business Council update on recommendations to the Government of India in response to COVID-19

*As of 15/04/2020

Recommendation	Resolution
Defer implementation of new stamp duty rules from 01 April 2002 to 01 June 2020	https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=200827
Relax requirements for board / shareholder meetings – board meetings should be compulsorily through circulation / telecom / VC; shareholder votes should be compulsorily through e-voting	http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/Rules_19032020.pdf
Corporate Courier service (referred to as express courier) needs to be treated as essential service else exports/imports from/to the country will get severely impacted.	https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_Consolidated%20Guideline%20of%20MHA_28032020%20%281%29_1.PDF
Custom clearance for a shipment of laptops for our ITES facilities serving banking sector in India and globally.	https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_Consolidated%20Guideline%20of%20MHA_28032020%20%281%29_1.PDF
Ship desktop and laptops from our offices by air	Across states - https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_Consolidated%20Guideline%20of%20MHA_28032020%20%281%29_1.PDF
Allow a small number of our employees and support staff to work from the office and travel within the city.	Allowed in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab. The staff is required to carry their ID and passes where curfew implemented.
Operational support for movement of Field engineers for Sites, Fibre, Tower operations, operation of critical facilities like NOC, FSO, warehouses, manufacturing and supply chain etc, includes the manpower of both TSPs as well as outsourced partners.	Allowed in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab
Allow mobile retailers selling recharges so that customers are not inconvenienced/deprived of mobile services.	Allowed in Gujarat
A common framework across all States for issuing curfew e-passes for those few critical IT, networks, field and system engineers, security etc staff who need building access and to transport IT equipment.	In place for Gujarat and Maharashtra
A common approach to what constitutes 'essential services' across telecom, IT/ITeS, bare minimum call centre work; to include international infrastructure and service support	https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_Consolidated%20Guideline%20of%20MHA_28032020%20%281%29_1.PDF
Inclusion of 'manufacturing, distribution and allied activities relating to petroleum and petroleum products' in the list of sectors / establishments to be kept out of the restrictions imposed through various advisories. These are essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.	https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_Consolidated%20Guideline%20of%20MHA_28032020%20%281%29_1.PDF

Uninterrupted operations of all services at retail sites so as to enable service customers.	State of Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Telangana have allowed operations of retail outlets for Petroleum, CNG an LPG
Security and support to personnel and assets in the event of miscreants disrupting operations.	Maharashtra and Gujarat allow private security deployment for these purposes. Few of the states that have ratified MHA's recommendation: Assam, Haryana Karnataka, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu.
Enabling engineering activity to continue as some work could be critical to the safety and operations of the site.	https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_Consolidated%20Guideline%20of%20MHA_28032020%20%281%29_1.PDF
Support free movements of vehicles carrying essential commodities/services across the state and city borders.	Indian Railways has resumed operations of carrying freight. -Consolidated Guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on measures to be taken by Ministries for containment of COVID-19, dated 28.03.2020 exempts " Cross land border movement of essential goods including petroleum products and LPG, food products, medical supplies." Inter State movement has been allowed by the states of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. Govt. is also trying to release them as per a webinar with Mr N. Sivasailam (Special Secretary, Logisitcs, Department of Commerce) on 2 Apr Movement across state allowed in Guajrat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana. Between States the issues are still being resolved case to case basis.
Automatic extension of permits and licences if respective offices do not function (eg. consent for operation, hazardous waste authorisation etc).	Waiver of penal fee
Relaxation in timelines where any deadline in relation to EPCG & Customs falls in March and afterwards until the situation becomes normal.	https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1607942
Availability of port support at Mumbai covering fuel supply, pilot service, workers/agents, launch services, requisite passes, extension of clearances, etc.	Railways,Sea port, Airport authorities to issue e pass to their staff. (Limited staff required to carry operations)as per per a webinar with Mr N. Sivasailam (Special Secretary, Logisitcs, Department of Commerce) on 2 Apr DG, Shipping provides reliefs concerning Seafarers, Waivers, Shipping Lines, Sanitisation, Safety certificates on 7 th March
Ensure free movement of people across our retail outlets and global service centres so that critical infrastructure is not disrupted.	Allowed in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, subject to carrying of ID and passes where the district is under curfew.
COVID-19 readiness for offshore installations/decommissioning; support for evacuation of staff and quarantine, if required	DGS has developed revised guidelines for sanitisation of all ships, PPEs requirements for ship staff and pilots boarding the vessels, sanitisation and PPE requirements for ship and port staff for loading and unloading of cargo at all major and minor Indian Ports, protocol for management of sick crew and dead bodies on board, protocol for sign-on and signoff of crew in emergencies etc on 7 March
Dhulagarh – District Howrah West Bengal: Approval require to open the Depot with staff	Permissions granted.

and labour followed by secondary transport movement to customers.

