



The European Organization for Packaging and the Environment

## Joint mapping national responses to Covid-19

### The packaging sector and national lists of essential activities

<b>Austria</b>	Packaging is classified as part of the crucial supply chain.
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>Packaging is classified as a key industry</p> <p>Official legislation: <a href="https://economie.fgov.be/sites/default/files/Files/Entreprises/AM-MB-20200318-covid-19.pdf">https://economie.fgov.be/sites/default/files/Files/Entreprises/AM-MB-20200318-covid-19.pdf</a> (French/Dutch)</p> <p>Suppliers of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) have been instructed by the government to only deliver to medical products/disinfectant producers, creating a shortage for the printed packaging industry.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	
<b>Croatia</b>	
<b>Cyprus</b>	
<b>Czechia</b>	<p><b>The packaging industry/supplies of packaging products is/are NOT listed on the list of Czech Republic critical infrastructure.</b> In the valid decree of the Czech Government No. 432/2010 Sb. on elements of critical infrastructure, the "Food industry" is listed with five "basic types of foodstuffs": mill products (ie.flour), sugar, bakery products, milk and dairy products and meat and meat products</p> <p>No further details are indicated on supplies to maintain production incl. packaging. <b>The CZ Food Federation and the CZ Union of Industry are aware of this and are raising this issue with the authorities (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry - who are part of the Government crisis team).</b> Currently, the CZ Government wants to preserve industrial production, does not divide production in practice between "essential" and "non essential".</p> <p><b>All 4 Czech borders with Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovakia are open to international cargo traffic both ways (export/import) at designated border crossings,</b> otherwise the borders are closed for personal traffic with exceptions (repatriation). We did not find specific "green lanes" info, since the border crossing as such is dedicated almost exclusively to cargo traffic.</p>
<b>Denmark</b>	Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry.

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<b>Finland</b>	Sectors identified as critical to the functioning of society have been listed by each administrative branch in Finland. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has listed “packaging industries” as a function critical to security of supply. National Emergency Supply Agency is coordinating the more detailed action plans in food and pharma value chains.
<b>France</b>	<p>Packaging is recognised as an essential activity. Packaging companies need to provide a “Plan de continuation” to keep production going. (waiting for official documents).</p> <p><i>During questions to the government on Thursday March 19, 2020, Edouard Philippe, in response to a question from Valérie Rabault (Member of Parliament, President of the Socialists and related groups), said: “An example which may seem trivial but which is important. When a factory that produces paper or cardboard, packaging stops: we say packaging is not strategic for the country. Except that, when you no longer have this packaging plant, you may find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to prepare the way food, masks, or medicines are distributed. And so you find yourself in a material situation which is extremely dangerous. In other words, we must keep in the country, even in a period of confinement, the minimum of economic activity necessary for the life of the country and necessary for the preparation of the rebound.”</i></p> <p><i>Intervention can be seen on: <a href="https://youtu.be/Awno4RTWEw4">https://youtu.be/Awno4RTWEw4</a></i></p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>The German government has recognized the <b>food</b> packaging industry as essential.</p> <p>Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry.</p>
<b>Greece</b>	
<b>Hungary</b>	
<b>Ireland</b>	
<b>Italy</b>	<p><b>Packaging activities are included in an updated list of the activities considered essential</b> and which, therefore, may remain open (source: <a href="#">Decree of the President of Ministers</a> of 22 March 2020).</p> <p>Packaging activities in general “Attività di imballaggio e confezionamento conto terzi” are included in the list. This would seem to cover all packaging materials (including glass packaging).</p>
<b>Latvia</b>	Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry.
<b>Lithuania</b>	

<b>Luxembourg</b>	
<b>Malta</b>	
<b>Netherlands</b>	The issue has been discussed during a meeting of the Dutch food and drink federation with the Government (23/2) Packaging is seen as being part of the broader food supply chain: <a href="https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/veelgestelde-vragen-over-coronavirus-en-kinderopvang/cruciale-beroepen">https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/veelgestelde-vragen-over-coronavirus-en-kinderopvang/cruciale-beroepen</a> (Dutch)
<b>Poland</b>	
<b>Portugal</b>	
<b>Romania</b>	
<b>Slovenia</b>	
<b>Slovakia</b>	Packaging is classified as part of the crucial supply chain in Slovakia. The Crisis Committee of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture for COVID- 19 has officially validated that the transport of food packaging may be referred to as the transport of food with the preferred right to cross the borders.
<b>Spain</b>	Government seemed to be eager to learn about the issue as they are not used to think in terms of value chains rather than in sectors. Waiting for feedback from national association in the form of a formal document. First feedback is positive.
<b>Sweden</b>	
<b>UK</b>	<p>The essential role of packaging activities is acknowledged.</p> <p>Defra statement "we agree that that the <a href="#">guidance</a> as issued can be correctly interpreted as including the production of packaging for those supplies mentioned in the guidance".</p> <p>Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry.</p> <p>1.The UK Government has accepted that packaging has 'key workers' insofar as it relates to key sectors (e.g. food &amp; drink, medicines, health etc). That applies automatically in England,</p>

	Northern Ireland and Wales. Scotland has delegated decisions to local authorities on defining 'key workers'. 2.The routes between the UK and the EU remain open.
<b>Switzerland</b>	
<b>Norway</b>	Classified packaging as a key industry.

**Mobility measures implemented or announced by Member States** (list on Member States' restrictions to transport, compiled and updated by the European Commission)

[https://ec.europa.eu/transport/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/coronavirus-response_en)