



**An Roinn Gnó,
Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta**
Department of Business,
Enterprise and Innovation

Sent: Mon, 09 Nov 2020

UPDATED: Tues, 10 Nov 2020

Subject: Level 5 restrictions / Covid Restrictions Support Scheme / Update from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine / Update from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Please see below information on:

1. Level 5 Restrictions
2. The Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)
3. Update from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: Notice Concerning the Purchase, Supply or Sale of Biocidal Sanitiser Products
4. Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) report on Maritime Connectivity which highlights the capacity of existing continental services to accommodate displaced land-bridge traffic.

1. Level 5 Restrictions

In the first instance, our strongest advice to retailers is to please consult Gov.ie which clearly sets out the rules and restrictions in relation to Level 5 of the Living with COVID-19 Plan.

- **UPDATED WITH CORRECT LINK:** <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/60ecc-essential-retail-outlets-for-level-5/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c9158-essential-services/>

We would also encourage retailers to also review the NSAI COVID-19 Retail Protection and Improvement Guide:

- <https://www.nsai.ie/images/uploads/general/NSAI-COVID19-Guidelines-Retail-20201023.pdf>

Among other guidance this guide provides information on collection practices (section 3.6.1.1) and contactless payments (section 3.6.2).

Essential Retail

The restrictions are in place for 6 weeks (to 1st December) and subject to satisfactory improvement in the epidemiological situation, and the ambition is we will go back to level 3 and retail may reopen again.

However, this all depends on everyone following the spirit of these new rules and working together.

We are asking retailers to fully get behind the spirit of the regulations. Retailers with mixed retail offering which have discrete spaces for essential and non-essential retail should make arrangements for the separation of relevant areas.

Retailers are asked to operate staggered opening and closing hours, as well as facilitating starting and finishing hours, in order to minimise the impact on public transport.

Non-Essential Retail

Further to queries received, the following are a (non-exhaustive) list of retail stores or part thereof which are considered non-essential and are not to open in Level 5 but can operate collection and delivery while adhering to the Public Health Guidelines.

1. Garden Centres
2. Bookstores
3. Furniture stores and homewares
4. Kitchen equipment
5. Fashion
6. Shoe Shops
7. Educational Supply Stores (art materials and books)
8. Christmas decorations and associated products

The following retail outlets are also considered non-essential but with exemptions

- **Flooring and Carpet Stores** are closed to the public but can offer collection and delivery and fitting where social distancing is possible per construction workplace guidelines
- **Office Supply Stores** are closed to the public but can offer collection and delivery

To note:

Only clothing or shoe stores where PPE is the principal business can open.

Travel

The following exemptions relate to travel to and from retail outlets:

- Business owners who need to check on closed business premises may access their premises outside of the 5km restriction.
- People who live more than 5km from an essential retail outlet.

To note:

Remote working is the recommendation of government and only essential workers can travel outside of the 5km radius.

Employees working in non-essential retail outlets offering click and collect can only travel to and from work outside of a 5km radius where it necessary to fulfil orders. Ordering and other administrative functions should be undertaken remotely.

2. Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)

Registration for the new CRSS is now open to qualifying businesses via the *e-Registration* facility in *ROS*.

Under the CRSS, a business activity that is impacted by Covid-19 related restrictions which requires the business to prohibit or considerably restrict customers from accessing its premises, can make a claim to Revenue for a payment, subject to a maximum of €5,000, for each week that it is affected by the restrictions.

The weekly payment will be calculated by reference to the average weekly turnover for 2019 in respect of the relevant business activity as follows:

- 10% of average weekly turnover in 2019 up to €20,000
- 5% of average weekly turnover in 2019 in excess of €20,000

and

- subject to a maximum of €5,000.

Where a qualifying person carries on more than one eligible business activity from separate business premises, a claim in respect of each impacted activity can be made.

- To register for CRSS, the eligible business must: make a declaration that it meets the eligibility criteria for the scheme
- have tax clearance

and

- provide certain information in relation to the business activity, the business premises and previous turnover details.

Detailed guidance on how the CRSS will operate based on the proposed legislation, including how to register for the scheme.

A claim portal in respect of CRSS will be available via the *eRepayments* system on ROS **from mid-November**.

Claims **must be made within 8 weeks** of the commencement of the claim period, bearing that in mind, qualifying businesses are urged to register for the scheme on ROS as soon as possible and to make their claim as soon the claims portal becomes operational.

3. Update from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: Notice Concerning the Purchase, Supply or Sale of Biocidal Sanitiser Products

You may be aware of the recent highlighting of issues around the recall *Virapro* biocidal sanitiser products, which are being recalled from the market by the supplier.

There may also be other biocidal sanitiser products which are not correctly registered, that are still on the market or on sale in retail outlets.

While there is no particular evidence that any of these products are unsafe or ineffective, they must be registered on the Biocidal Products Register of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Where the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has become aware that suppliers are placing unregistered product on the market, these suppliers have been contacted to cease supplying such products until their registration is regularised and they are appropriately labelled.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine are also taking this opportunity to advise retail organisations that their members should only source supplies of biocide sanitiser products that are correctly labelled and registered on the Biocidal Products Register: <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/registers/biocidalproductregisters/>

Registered sanitiser will bear an official registration number on the label in the format PCS 9XXXX, PCS100XXX, IE/BPA 70XXX or EU 00XXXXX-00XX. Retailers should take the necessary steps to ensure all sanitiser products offered for sale fully comply with these requirements.

Contact point:

Pesticide Registration & Control Divisions

Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

Phone: +353 16157552

4. Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) report on Maritime Connectivity

Please see additional document attached in the daily digest – the IMDO report on Maritime Connectivity which highlights the capacity of existing continental services to accommodate displaced land-bridge traffic.

Press Release available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/ffe20-sufficient-capacity-on-existing-continental-services-to-accommodate-displaced-landbridge-traffic/>

Regards

Maedhbh Cronin

Principal Officer

Retail and Sector Transformation Policy Unit

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