



competition commission
south africa

Media Statement

Immediate Release

Date: 20 July 2021

COMMISSION WELCOMES BLOCK EXEMPTIONS FOR ESSENTIAL GOODS

The Competition Commission welcomes the recently published block exemptions for essential goods. This follows the gazetting of block exemptions by the Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Mr Ebrahim Patel, in response to disruptions to the supply chains of essential goods within the country.

In the main, these block exemptions, put a waiver on the application of sections 4 and 5 of the Competition Act as amended.

The regulations came into effect on 15 July 2021.

The exemptions were issued in terms of section (10) of the Competition Act which states that the Minister may, after consultation with the Competition Commission, and in order to give effect to the purposes of the Act, issue regulations in terms of section 78 exempting a category of agreements or practices from the application of Chapter 2 of the Competition Act.

The gazette notice references a list of essential goods which definitions are found under paragraph 1.2. In terms of the regulations, the block exemptions refer to the following essential goods:

- Basic food and consumer items;
- Emergency products;
- Medical and hygiene supplies, including pharmaceutical products;
- Refined petroleum products;
- Emergency clean-up products.

Essential goods include the final good itself as well as all inputs in the supply chain required for the production, distribution and retail of the essential goods.

The gazette notice is now available on the Commission's website <https://tinyurl.com/4p2xw4hk>

The Commission urges all firms to adhere to the regulations and avoid any form of exploitation of consumers and customers.

[ENDS]

Issued by:

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