

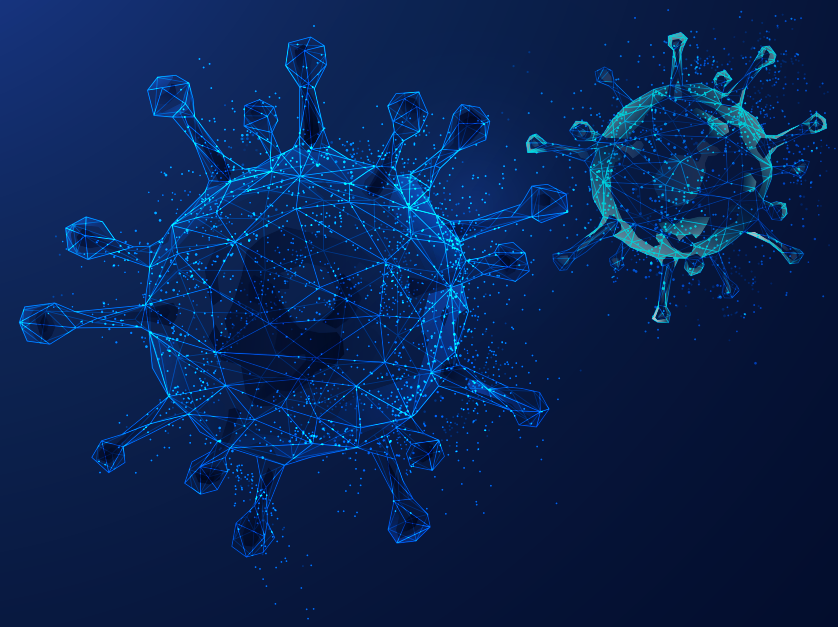


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International Bar Association

Covid-19 pandemic

Covid-19 relief measures: Environment, Health and Safety Law perspective



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Country	Environmental Enforcement and Reporting during Covid-19	Permits and licenses	Waste Management	Environmental Agencies/Administrative Measures	Workers Safety	Environmental Product Standards	Guidelines for Remediations and Cleanups
<u>Argentina</u> Contributor: Angeles Murgier, Beccar Varela	The Executive Branch issued Decree No. 297/2020, through which it ordered a mandatory and preventive social isolation measure effective as from 20 March 2020. This isolation measure has been extended by other decrees until 24 May 2020 and could be extended even further if the epidemiological situation requires so. Pursuant to Decree No. 297/2020, certain activities have been deemed as essential activities and thus, exempted from complying with the isolation measure (those related to foodstuffs industries as well as their production chains and suppliers, medical equipment industries, drug labs, personal hygiene and sanitary product industries, waste management, etc.). The isolation measure/lockdown was lifted up/relaxed throughout the country since 10 May, except in major urban areas such as the City of Buenos Aires and the Greater Buenos Aires where the lockdown will continue at least until 24 May. As a Federal Republic, Argentina is composed of 23 Provinces and one Autonomous City, the City of Buenos Aires. This matrix contains references to the main developments occurred at the Federal, Province of Buenos Aires (PBA) and City of Buenos Aires (CABA) levels. All dates mentioned in this matrix refer to the publication date in the respective Official Gazette.						
Introduction to all topics							
	National Decree No. 674/89 on liquid effluents. 2019 Annual Sworn Statement. The Federal Environmental Agency (<i>Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible</i> - MAYDS) extended until 31 July 2020, the filing of the	Hazardous waste. Extension of the Annual Environmental Certificates for Carriers and Operators of Hazardous and Pathogenic Waste. MAYDS Resolutions No. 93/2020 and 138/2020 (27 March and 28 April	General waste management has been declared an 'essential service' in Argentina (Decree No. 297/2020, 20 March 2020). Operations for the disposal of pathological waste. The MAYDS authorised operators of	The Province of Buenos Aires Sustainable Development Agency (<i>Organismo Provincial para el Desarrollo Sostenible</i> - OPDS) has limited face-to-face attention to the public at the OPDS offices only to urgent cases (Resolutions No. 170/2020, 183/2020 and 190/2020).	Protocols approved by the National Health Authority. Federal Decree No. 459/2020 dated 11 May 2020 incorporates as an annex a series of protocols to carry out industrial activities that were approved by the National Health Authority (the	Import of face mask and examination gloves. The National Administration of Drugs, Foods and Medical Devices (<i>Administración Nacional de Medicamentos, Alimentos y Tecnología Médica</i> - ANMAT) has decided not to intervene in the import of face mask and examination gloves (for the term of 60 days as of 9 April 2020) and infrared thermometers (for the	N/A

	<p>annual liquid effluent sworn statements set forth in National Decree No. 674/89 for 2019. This annual sworn statement is filed in April of each year and contains information referring to the previous year.</p>	<p>2020, respectively) extended until 30 June 2020 the effective term of the permits granted to hazardous and pathogenic waste carriers and operators under Federal Hazardous Waste Law No. 24,051 (HWL). The time extension applies to permits expiring between 1 March and 30 June 2020.</p> <p>New procedure to obtain transportation manifests during the lockdown period. The MAYDS approved an online procedure to obtain the hazardous waste transportation manifests during the lockdown</p>	<p>hazardous waste registered in the National Registry of Generators and Operators of the HWL to carry out operations for the disposal of pathological waste (Resolution No. 144/2020, 8 May 2020).</p> <p>Generation of hazardous/pathogenic waste by temporary health facilities. Procedure for authorisation of manifests. Public and/or private health care service providers that, as a result of the health emergency caused by Covid-19, use temporary facilities and/or establishments that may potentially generate pathological waste from health care</p>	<p>APrA has provided that all its offices will be closed to the public while the mandatory and preventive social isolation is in effect. APrA will continue to make available its exclusive electronic channels to entertain the consultations of the general public and/or receive filings virtually (Resolutions No. 91/2020 and 106/2020).</p> <p>APrA has provided for the extension of the terms to make filings in any pending administrative proceedings due between 16 March and 31 May 2020, for a 90 day calendar term (Resolution No. 106/2020).</p> <p>Public visitation suspended in National Parks</p>	<p>activities include: automotive, electronics and household appliances, clothing, tobacco products, metallurgy, footwear, graphics and prints, wood and furniture, toys, cement, textile products, leather manufactures, tires, bicycles and motorcycles, chemical and petrochemical, cellulose and paper, plastics and by-products and ceramics).</p> <p>PBA Protocol on Hygiene and Safety. The Ministry of Employment of the PBA issued a Resolution compelling employers to draw up a Protocol on Hygiene and Safety within the</p>	<p>term of 60 days as of 13 May 2020). It has also established a simplified procedure for those companies that import or manufacture any of the products classified as 'critical sanitary supplies' (Joint Resolution 1/2020) and in vitro diagnostics reactive that have to modify their authorisation to operate and has also established an emergency mechanism for the registry of critical medical devices class I and II.</p> <p>Critical sanitary supplies production increase. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Production have instructed manufacturers, distributors and sellers of critical sanitary supplies to increase their production, distribution and sale up to the maximum capacity installed, to prioritise the sale and distribution of such supplies to sanitary institutions and to inform both ministries the quantity</p>	
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	<p>period (Resolution No. 93/2020, 27 March 2020).</p> <p>Extension of the effective term of certificates and of deadlines for filings with APrA. Attention to the public. The Environmental Protection Agency of the CABA (<i>Agencia de Protección Ambiental</i> - APrA) has provided for the extension of the effective term of certificates expiring between 16 March and 31 May 2020 (applicable to all certificates issued by the APrA) (Resolution No. 106/2020, May 6 2020).</p>	<p>services, must follow a special procedure for the authorisation of manifests under the HWL, which includes the authorisation of the establishment as a potential hazardous waste generator. The MAyDS reviews the information and grants the necessary authorisations to issue the manifests required under the HWL. It also makes available to the authorities of the Argentine Provinces and the CABA the procedure for the authorisation of HWL manifests for the case of pathological waste that is generated, managed, transported and/or finally disposed of entirely within their respective</p>	<p>Administration Protected Areas. The Directory of the National Parks Administration fully restricted the entry of visitors to all Protected Areas from 16 March 2020 (Resolution 57/2020).</p>	<p>framework of the Covid-19 health emergency (the 'Protocol'). The Protocol will have to be in line with the regulations already in place in connection with the health emergency and shall be displayed in places where it can be easily seen by workers. In case of failure to implement the Protocol, such behavior shall be considered as a very serious offense and will be subject to penalties (including the closure of the commercial establishment or facility). Inspectors of the Ministry of Employment may order the adoption of immediate actions in the event of serious and/or</p>	<p>of products manufactured, the quantity sold, the ones who have purchased them and their production plan for the next three months. Joint Resolution 1/2020.</p> <p>Hand sanitisers and mechanical invasive ventilators. The Ministry of Health authorised pharmacies with authorised laboratories to manufacture hand sanitisers. It also prevented manufacturers, distributors and sellers of mechanical invasive ventilators to delivery such products without the express authorisation of the Ministry of Health. Resolutions No. 681/2020 and 695/2020.</p>	
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			<p>jurisdictions (MAyDS Resolution No. 120/2020, 21 April 2020).</p> <p>Pathogenic Waste. Exceptional procedures to obtain permits and/or authorisations. Essential goods. Decree No. 251/2020, 14 April 2020. The Governor of the PBA authorised OPDS, during the health emergency, to establish exceptional procedures to obtain permits and/or authorisations for the conduct of activities governed by the PBA Pathological Waste Law. The Provincial Decree describes the requirements applicable to the</p>		<p>imminent danger to health, hygiene or safety of the worker, including the suspension of work. The Protocol must be communicated to the Joint Committee on Occupational Health, Hygiene and Safety, if there is any, or to the Trade Unions that represent the workers, within a period of not more than 24 hours from the time it is prepared. Ministry of Labor of the Province of Buenos Aires Resolution No. 135/2020.</p> <p>Covid-19 infections Occupational Illnesses. By a PBA Governor Decree, Covid-19 infections shall be allegedly regarded as occupational</p>	
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			<p>permits and/or authorisations to be granted (including, among others, revocation, effective terms, technical reports and visits and purchase of environmental insurance). In the PBA, biohazard disposal bags and containers used for the transportation of pathogenic waste to storage and/or treatment facilities are included in the list of essential goods. The prices of such goods may not be increased.</p> <p>Non-hospital isolation sites. Waste management and laundry washing. OPDS regulated waste management generated at non-hospital isolation</p>		<p>illnesses (as opposed to those that are non-occupational illnesses) and thus the ART (Occupational Risk Insurance Company) shall cover such illnesses. This Decree is applicable to infected employees who are working at the companies' workplaces because their activities are deemed essential and are consequently exempted from the Isolation Measure.</p> <p>Decree No. 367/2020.</p> <p>Personal protective equipment. Use of personal protective equipment is mandatory in the PBA and the CABA and many other jurisdictions</p>		
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		<p>sites and issued recommendations for washing clothes that are used at those sites. Additionally, it requested that the waste generated does not enter the recycling loop.</p> <p>Resolution No. 206/2020, 14 May 2020.</p> <p>Solid urban waste. OPDS approved a protocol of prevention measures for municipalities, urban solid waste collecting and final disposal companies (Resolution No. 209/2020, 18 May 2020). OPDS also approved a protocol with recommendations and prevention measures to protect the health of workers in the</p>		<p>(including Provinces and Municipalities). Special requirements have been approved for the use of the public passenger transport services.</p>		
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			waste recovery and recycling sector (Resolution No. 213/2020, 18 May 2020).				
<p><u>Australia</u></p> <p>Contributor:</p> <p>Bill Kritharas</p>	<p>The three administrative levels of Australian Government are responsible for enforcement of environmental laws (Federal, state and local). While the Federal government is responsible for regulating matters of national environmental importance, the majority of environmental law is state based, including regulating plans and policies for developments, approving some developments, regulating pollution,</p>	<p>The Australian Government has waived the environmental management charge which is usually charged to those issued a permit by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020 in response to Covid-19.</p> <p>On a state and territory level, some states and territories have decided to waive certain fees for permits or licenses during a specified relief period.</p>	<p>Many Australian waste management organisations have adapted their procedures by introducing a contactless waste collection system and ensuring that workers are abiding by the work health and safety provisions recommended by Safe Work Australia to limit the spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>Some Australian states have introduced measures for disposing of Covid-19 waste, however others, like Queensland, have stated that Covid-19</p>	<p>Some local government councils have stopped council clean up bookings within their locality in response to Covid-19.</p> <p>Public cleanups are also limited by the public gathering, social distancing and movement rules applicable in each Australian state or territory (see for example: <i>NSW Public Health (Covid-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 2) 2020</i> (NSW) or <i>Home Confinement, Movement and Gathering Direction (No. 5)</i> (Qld)).</p>	<p>Following the advice of the Australian Government and state/territory governments, the majority of Environmental Agencies will be opting for their employees to work from home as far as reasonably practicable (workers may be required to attend their workplaces if they are considered essential workers). Environmental agencies may need to adapt their processes in wake of the updated Covid-19 measures, eg number of persons in a</p>	<p>Safe Work Australia, as Australian Government statutory agency for Work Health and Safety, has provided industry specific Covid-19 guidance and information to assist industries to stop the spread and decrease the risk associated with Covid-19.</p> <p>The National Cabinet of Australia has established a set of National Covid-19 safe workplace principles to assist workplaces to create safe workplaces and protect themselves and their workers from Covid-19.</p> <p>Further, each Australian state and territory jurisdiction has implemented Work Health and Safety orders,</p>	<p>The Australian Government has implemented a range of determination s, regulations and agreements in relation to environmental product standards during Covid-19. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The <i>Therapeutic Goods (Excluded Goods— Hand Sanitisers) Determination 2020</i> whic

	<p>regulating natural resource management, coastal and marine protection, declaring and managing public areas and listing and managing threatened species. The local government primarily accesses and determines some development applications, regulates local land use, deals with noise issues and pollution incidents, manages public spaces and is responsible for waste collection and some roads.</p> <p>Businesses across Australia have been advised by the Australian Government that they are required to continue to</p>	<p>The New South Wales government has put in place a 12-month relief period waiving new application or renewal fees for a range of permits and licenses. Under the NSW <i>Coronavirus Stimulus Package – Stage One</i>, fees will be waived for licenses and permits for: Liquor and Gaming NSW, NSW Fair Trading and SafeWork NSW.</p> <p>In South Australia, the <i>Job Rescue Package</i> waives fees for liquor licenses for hotels, restaurants, cafes and clubs forced to close due to Covid-19.</p>	<p>waste is to be disposed of in the usual clinical waste manner.</p>		<p>business, essential work etc. Further, face to face meetings by Agencies will be limited and virtual meetings are preferred.</p>	<p>directions or legislative documents in response to Covid-19. These orders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The provision of subsidised child care for essential workers; - Increased safety measures in Residential Aged Care facilities to protect residents and workers; - Provision of temporary accommodation for workers affected by Covid-19; and - Protection of Public Officials and workers through creating a criminal offence for spitting, coughing or sneezing in the direction of a public official or another worker to reasonably cause apprehension or fear of being exposed to Covid-19. 	<p>h redefines the requirements for hand sanitiser acceptable microbiological quality;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The <i>Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Radiopharmaceuticals and Radiopharmaceutical Active Ingredients) Regulations 2020</i>, which prescribes a stricter definition on what is
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	<p>meet their Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conversation approval or permit obligations/requirements. Businesses are required to continue to undertake due diligence in assessing compliance risks for the business.</p> <p>The environmental enforcement and reporting requirements for each state and territory varies. Some environmental regulators like the NSW, Victorian and Tasmanian Environmental Protection Authority and the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water</p>	<p>In Victoria, the <i>Economic Survival Package to Support Businesses and Jobs</i> waived liquor licensing fees for 2020 for affected venues and small businesses.</p> <p>In Western Australia, the <i>\$1B Economic and Health Relief Package</i> waives the fees for building services, plumbers, electricians, fishing, some transport fees and tourism fees.</p>					<p>defined as Radiopharmaceuticals; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The National Health (Covid-19 Supply of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Special Arrangement 2020</i> which allows for the supply of prescriptions for pharmaceuticals as a result of Medicare Telehealth or teleconference attendance.
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	<p>and Environment have issued statements making it clear that compliance with environmental licence conditions is still expected at this time. Others such as the Queensland Department of Environment and Science, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment have indicated that they are taking a flexible and pragmatic approach to enforcement and compliance actions. Whereas others have not yet taken a firm position on this.</p> <p>Some regulators have encouraged businesses to self-report any actual</p>						
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	<p>or anticipated failures to comply with the terms and conditions of environmental licenses or permits. Some environmental regulators have also urged for businesses to put in place continuity plans to ensure they meet their environmental obligations as far as possible.</p> <p>Some states, such as NSW, have implemented legislation in relation to the reporting and compliance requirements during Covid-19. Such as the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Local Government (General) Amendment</i>						
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	<p>(Covid-19) Regulation 2020 (NSW) which provides more flexibility to local councils, including by allowing reporting dates to be deferred, fees to be waived and notices and other documents to be published online.</p> <p>- Covid-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020 (NSW), which allowed the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to make an order for developments</p>						
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	<p>to be carried out without the normal planning approval during Covid-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Planning and Assessment orders to accelerate completion of construction of health service facilities, to allow commercial kitchens to operate without an eat-in component and the easing of construction site operating hours. 						
<u>Austria</u> Contributors:	From 16 March 2020: Deadlines for appeals and	From 22 March: Depending on the individual case application	From 5 April 2020: Authorised storage capacities may be expanded until 30	From March: Tax reliefs may be granted, if specific concernment is	From 16 March 2020: Restriction on movements	From 11 March 2020: Accidents, which are caused by and temporally related to home-work are	N/A

<p>Wilhelm Bergthaler</p> <p>Marion Meyer</p>	<p>remedies according to the Austrian Financial Penal Code, which started or were not expired between 16 March and 30 April have been extended, as they restart on 1 May 2020.</p> <p>From 22 March 2020: Deadlines were basically extended in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> procedural deadlines, which started or were running between 22 March and 30 April, restarted on 1 May 2020; application deadlines and certain limitation periods did not 	<p>deadlines for renewals of authorisations might have been extended, as these periods did not expire between 22 March and 30 April, but were extended by the amount of time that reached into the period between 22 March and 30 April 2020.</p>	<p>September 2020, which must be reported to the competent authority.</p>	<p>credible. This is also applicable to the collection of the contaminated sites tax.</p>	<p>(‘lockdown’) concerning public places with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> danger avoidance care and assistance for people who require support in order to meet the basic needs provided that physical distancing of at least one metre from people who do not live in the same household is ensured for occupational purposes, provided that physical distancing of at least one metre from people who do not live in the same 	<p>considered as work accidents.</p> <p>From 16 March 2020: Recommendations of the Federal Government requiring as many workers as possible to work from home and compliance with special hygienic measurements, such as frequent hand wash and disinfection habits, correct coughing and sneezing habits, no shaking hands and physical distancing of at least one metre.</p> <p>An obligation to wear facemasks requires an agreement between employer and employee</p> <p>From 6 April 2020: People belonging to groups at risk of Covid-19 infection were given the right to a paid leave from work, if home-work or other suitable measurements at the work place are impossible.</p>	

	<p>expire during the period between 22 March and 30 April, but were extended by the amount of time that reached into the period between 22 March and 30 April 2020;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decision deadlines were extended by six weeks or, if the decision deadline is less than six weeks, by the according amount of time; • payment deadlines of particular administrative criminal proceedings have been prolonged; 				<p>household is ensured</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public outdoor places alone or with housemates provided that physical distancing of at least one metre from people who do not live in the same household is ensured <p>Customers are not allowed to enter the customer area of business premises of retailers, service providers as well as leisure and sports facilities for the purpose of purchasing goods, using services or enjoying leisure and sports activities. This does not apply to several places, for example public pharmacies, food</p>	<p>From 1 May 2020: Physical distancing of at least one metre has to be ensured, if other suitable measurements are not available.</p>	
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	<p>From 15 May 2020: Oral hearings can be held via videoconference.</p> <p>Already in force before Covid-19: onsite inspections can be carried out online (site operator granting online access to environmental data as well as to measurements and recordings of emissions).</p>				<p>retailers, banks and car workshops.</p> <p>From 14 April 2020: Relaxed measurements, as customers are basically allowed to enter the customer area of business premises of retailers, if the business area measures 400 m² max. (except for example DIY stores and garden centres), facemasks are being worn, physical distancing of at least one metre from people who do not live in the same household is ensured and each customer is provided with an average area of 20 m².</p> <p>From 1 May 2020: Public places may be only entered my</p>		
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					<p>maintaining physical distance of at least one metre from people who do not live in the same household.</p> <p>Special provisions for carpools, certain educational institutions.</p> <p>Events with more than ten persons are prohibited.</p> <p>Relaxed measurements, as customers are allowed to enter the customer area of business premises of retailers, if physical distancing of at least one metre from people who do not live in the same household is provided, facemasks are being worn and each customer is provided with an</p>		
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					<p>average area of ten m².</p> <p>This applies also to institutions for the practice of religion.</p> <p>From 15 May 2020:</p> <p>Relaxed measurement for all kinds of businesses of the hospitality sector, such as employees having to wear facemasks during contact with customers and customer groups must live in the same household or may not consist of more than four adults in addition to their minor children.</p> <p>Outdoor sports activities are allowed under certain circumstances.</p>		
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					May and June 2020: Gradual opening of schools structured by school types and grades.		
<u>Brazil</u>	Brazilian Constitution (1988) has established that all three administrative levels (federal, states and municipalities) are responsible for the enforcement of environmental laws. Note that all three administrative levels can also legislate on specific environmental issues, which means that there are different rules adapting legal norms. The concurrent jurisdiction has been recognised by the courts.						
Introduction to all topics	Brazil has 26 states, the district capital and 5,570 municipalities that can legislate on environmental issues, which can result in regulatory conflicts.						
Contributors: Antonio Reis, Lina Pimentel and Roberta Danelon Leonhardt	Remote Work At the federal level, on 21 March 2020, the Ministry of Environment issued the Ordinance No. 139 to implement remote work for the public servants of federal environmental agencies. The State of São Paulo has implemented remote work for the public servants until 31 May 2020	Law No. 13,979/2020 established measures to deal with the public health emergency of international importance resulting from the coronavirus as isolation, quarantine, compulsory medical measures and temporary restriction of mobility, safeguarding the exercise and functioning of activities	IBAMA issued a formal communication on 3 April 2020, which registered that it will consider the exceptional situation of this pandemic period before fixing any administrative sanction during inspections activities. As already mentioned, in the State of São Paulo, the environmental agency issued the Board Decision No 28/2020 by which	Suspension of deadlines for accomplishing compliance with legal obligations and administrative processes At the federal level, the Order of the Ministry of the Environment No. 219 , published on 29 April 2020, extends from 30 April to 31 July 2020, the deadline for the provision of information on solid waste by Municipalities, States and the Federal District, in the	Safety controls for health institutions From a health regulatory standpoint, there is no requirement/advice with regards to safety controls on a federal level - except for health institutions. The State of São Paulo Health Secretary limits its recommendations to the following: i) workplaces to maintain surveillance to	The Brazilian National Sanitary Surveillance Agency (' <i>Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária</i> ' or 'ANVISA') and The National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (' <i>Instituto Nacional de Metrologia, Qualidade e Tecnologia</i> ' or 'INMETRO') have published specific resolutions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In general, the rules are not only related to extraordinary and temporary procedures to speed up the licensing, but also to simplify some usual requirements. For instance, the following rules are worth mentioning: the	Environmental Licenses and Proceedings The State of Rio de Janeiro published the State Decree No. 47.008/2020 , which allows the issuance of electronic Environmental Authorisations (' <i>Autorização Ambiental</i> ') for the activities aiming to prevent and combat the

	<p>(State Decree No. 64,967/2020).</p> <p>Additionally, the State of Rio de Janeiro has also implemented remote work for public servants.</p> <p>Suspension and extension of deadlines</p> <p>The Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (<i>'Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis'</i> or 'IBAMA') has issued the Ordinance No. 826 to suspend all administrative litigation deadlines, from 16 March 2020, for an indefinite period.</p>	<p>considered essential.</p> <p>Initially, Decree No. 10,282/2020, which regulated Law 13,979/2020, listed the collection and treatment of sewage and garbage as an essential activity that, therefore, should continue to function normally.</p> <p>Subsequently, Decree nº 10.329/2020 changed the original wording of Decree nº 10.282/2020, revoking the only item that dealt with waste management.</p> <p>Although the activity is no longer expressly provided for in the Decree, companies</p>	<p>established the suspension of deadlines and terms related to administrative proceedings, until 30 April 2020. The suspension was extended until 15 May 2020, by Board Decision 45/2020.</p> <p>In the mentioned Board Decision, there is a specific item ('a-iii') that determines the suspension of measures established in Intervention Plans that are considered unfeasible in view of the mobility of specialised technical workforces/teams, as sampling collection and other fieldworks.</p>	<p>National Information System on Solid Waste Management (<i>'Sistema Nacional de Informações sobre a Gestão dos Resíduos Sólidos'</i> or 'SINIR'), for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019.</p> <p>At the state level, the Board Decision No. 035, published on 6 April 2020, by the Environmental Agency of State of São Paulo (<i>'Companhia Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo'</i> or 'CETESB') states that the reverse logistics target will not be required during the period of the state of emergency generated by the Covid-19 pandemic, as long as the systems meet conditions laid down in the Decision.</p>	<p>identify suspected cases of infection and provide guidance to workers to immediately report symptoms of the disease; and ii) remove workers with signs and symptoms of suspected Covid-19 infection, regardless of the degree of intensity of signs and symptoms.</p>	<p>ANVISA Resolution No. 348/2020, which rules on extraordinary and temporary procedures and criteria regarding medicines, biological products and in vitro diagnosis products (among other topics) registration requests, due to the public health emergency caused by the Covid-19; the ANVISA Resolution No. 350/2020, which provides for extraordinary and temporary manufacture and marketing procedures for antiseptic preparations, including 70 per cent ethyl alcohol; 80 per cent glycerin ethyl alcohol; alcohol gel; 75 per cent glycerinated isopropyl alcohol; and 0.5 per cent chlorhexidine diglyconate. This Resolution authorises, on a temporary and emergency basis, the manufacture and commercialisation of those products without prior authorisation from ANVISA; the ANVISA Resolution No.</p>	<p>new coronavirus, such as hospitals. In urgent cases, such authorisations may be requested after the activities have started its operation, in which case the entrepreneur should request the authorisation within 30 days, describing the interventions that have already been carried out and explaining the urgency.</p> <p>Additionally, some states have extended the</p>
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	<p>Normative Instruction of IBAMA No. 12/2020 has prolonged the deadline to file the Annual Report of Potentially Pollution Activities (<i>'Relatório Annual de Atividades Potencialmente Poluidoras e Utilizadoras de Recursos Ambientais'</i> or 'RAPP'), a legal obligation for polluting companies, until 29 June 2020.</p> <p>Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, IBAMA is trying to maintain inspection on licensed activities and has been issuing Notices of Violation against offenders.</p>	<p>continue to provide services normally and articulate before the Public Power (executive and legislative), considering that the services are closely related to public health and that their stoppage could aggravate the situation of the pandemic.</p> <p>In this sense, Bill No. 2072/2020 is in progress to establish measures to protect providers of waste management services during the pandemic. The project is awaiting submission by the president of the House of Representatives.</p> <p>In the State of São Paulo, the environmental</p>		<p>Suspended face-to-face service</p> <p>There is no face-to-face service at various environmental agencies, such as those in the state of São Paulo (according to Board Decision No. 028/2020/P, of 30 March 2020), in Minas Gerais (according to the Joint Resolution of the Environmental Agencies No. 2963, of 30 April 2020) and in Paraná (according to Information Note 01 from the Environmental Institute of Paraná - IAP).</p> <p>Simplification of the shipment process to send genetic heritage abroad</p> <p>Interministerial Ordinance No. 155, of 3 April 2020, permitted the</p>		<p>356/2020, which simplifies the requirements for manufacturing, importing and purchasing priority medical devices for use in healthcare services; the ANVISA Resolution No. 366/2020, which stated that importation of products for in vitro diagnosis for coronavirus diagnosis may be carried out through the Import Licensing process or through Express Shipping; ANVISA Resolution No. 379/2020, which states that the importation of N95 and PFF2 masks or equivalent will have the automatic granting of import licensing in the Integrated System Foreign Trade (<i>'Sistema Integrado do Comércio Exterior'</i> or 'Siscomex'), which means that it is independent of any other technical or procedural analysis; INMETRO Ordinance N. 102/2020 suspended the compulsory certification of PFF masks, for 12 months;</p>	<p>validity of environmental licenses. In the State of Rio Grande do Sul, the State Foundation for Environmental Protection's (<i>'Fundação Estadual de Proteção Ambiental'</i>) Resolution No. 4/2020 sets forth that environmental licenses with the expiration date between 22 April 2020 and 19 September 2020, will be automatically extended for thirty days. The entrepreneur may file the renewal request within</p>
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	<p>The Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (<i>'Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade'</i> or 'ICMbio') has issued the Ordinance No. 226/2020 that suspended all administrative litigation deadlines, from 23 March 2020, until the exceptional measures last.</p> <p>Brazil has 26 states and the Federal District. Each state has the authority to define specific rules on environmental enforcement, so there is not a uniform proceeding. All states have carried</p>	<p>agency issued the Board Decision No. 38/2020 by which the environmental agency authorises - exceptionally in the face of the coronavirus pandemic - the receipt and processing of solid waste, up to 25 per cent above the amounts covered by the environmental licensing of the companies that carry out these activities.</p> <p>This determination is valid throughout the state of public calamity in the State of São Paulo.</p>		<p>shipment of samples of genetic heritage for research and technological development, necessarily linked to the epidemiological situation, which may be carried out without the need for prior registration of the activity in the National Management System for Genetic Heritage and Associated Traditional Knowledge, usually required.</p> <p>Public visitation suspended in federal conservation units</p> <p>Ordinance No. 227, of 22 March 2020, suspends public visitation in federal conservation units indefinitely.</p> <p>Environmental control</p>		<p>INMETRO No. 107/2020 (published on 27 March 2020) extended the validity of certificates related to the transport of hazardous products for a period of 30 days; INMETRO No. 111/2020 approved extraordinary conditions for carrying out conformity assessment activities in manufacturing plants during the Covid-19.</p>	<p>ninety days before the environmental licenses' validity term, not the usual 120 days outlined in the federal legislation in force.</p> <p>In the State of Santa Catarina, the State Law No. 17.938/2020 establishes that environmental licenses' validity will be automatically extended for a period of 120 days.</p> <p>It is important to highlight that the environmental licenses' technical</p>
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	<p>out some restrictions to avoid Covid-19 contamination, implementing remote work or online assistance.</p> <p>The majority of states have suspended the administrative litigation deadlines, but not necessarily the deadlines to comply with environmental obligations, such as those provided for in environmental licenses and permits.</p> <p>For instance, in the state of São Paulo, the administrative litigation deadlines were suspended until 15 May 2020 (Environmental Agency of State of São Paulo</p>			<p>Federal Decree No. 10.282/20 sets forth the public activities considered as essential, which include the environmental control. In line with the Federal Decree, the State of Minas Gerais recommended the environmental control to continue during the pandemic. Such provision can be verified in the Contingency Plan of the State of Minas Gerais regarding Covid-19, which established the suspension of travel for service within the scope of the environmental agencies of Minas Gerais, as well as inspections or local assistance. An exception is made to attend environmental emergencies, such as forest fires, dam's</p>			<p>conditions must be complied with even during the pandemic. In this sense, IBAMA issued the Communicate No. 7337671/2020, which fixes the maintenance of the obligation to comply with technical conditions. In cases it is not possible to comply with such technical conditions, the Company must act as to minimise the effects and duration of noncompliance and seek to solve the issue</p>
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	<p>(‘<i>Companhia Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo</i>’ or ‘CETESB’) Board Decision No. 45/2020).</p> <p>However, all obligations related to environmental licensing, such as compliance with requirements, were not generally and formally suspended.</p> <p>In the State of Rio de Janeiro, the administrative litigation deadlines were suspended until 31 May 2020 (State Decree No. 47,068/2020).</p>			<p>stability and safety inspections and demands of domestic and wild fauna. Also, the Joint Resolution of the Environmental Agencies of Minas Gerais No. 2955/2020 established the same exceptions.</p> <p>Technology is assuming an important role in pandemic times</p> <p>For instance, in the State of Minas Gerais in Brazil, drones are being used in surveys related to environmental licensing processes. Thus, the need for the physical presence of technicians in inspections is reduced, expediting the processes, without affecting the quality of the analysis.</p>			<p>as soon as possible.</p> <p>Within the scope of the environmental licensing proceeding, some measures are being adopted to minimise the impact of the pandemic. In the State of Rio de Janeiro, the State Council for Environment’s (<i>‘Conselho Estadual de Meio Ambiente’</i>) Resolution No. 89/2020 establishes that the State Secretary for the Environment and Sustainability (<i>‘Secretário de</i></p>
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							<p><i>Estado do Ambiente e Sustentabilidade</i>) may, as long as duly justified, request the State Commission for Environmental Control (<i>'Comissão Estadual de Controle Ambiental'</i> or <i>'CECA'</i>) to call for a virtual public hearing. However, the virtual public hearing will not be allowed when the activity affects the interests of traditional communities.</p> <p>At the federal level, the Bill</p>
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							<p>of Law No. 1.602/2020 is being discussed to propose the implementation of virtual public hearings within the environmental licensing proceedings during the public health emergency related to the coronavirus.</p> <p>It seems to be a time for pushing laws through, especially now that they don't face the same level of scrutiny as they would usually do. In Brazil, there is a discussion regarding a</p>
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							<p>Provisional Measure proposal which lightens the environmental licensing process for activities with medium and low impact. Such Provisional Measure was on the agenda for voting by the Chamber of Deputies in the last week of April but ended up not being voted on. However, the analysis of the Measure can happen at any time still during the pandemic.</p> <p>Water grants</p>
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							<p>The National Water Agency (<i>‘Agência Nacional de Águas’</i>) enacted the Resolution No. 21/2020 which sets forth that Declarations of Water Availability Reserve (<i>‘Declaração de Reserva de Disponibilidade e Hídrica’</i>), Preventive Grants (<i>‘Outorgas Preventivas’</i>) and Water Grants (<i>‘Outorgas de Direito de Uso de Recursos Hídricos’</i>) with the expiration date between 20 March 2020 and 30 December</p>
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							<p>2020 will be automatically extended until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Traditional communities</p> <p>The National Indigenous Foundation (<i>'Fundação Nacional do Índio'</i> or 'FUNAI') issued the Ordinance No. 419/2020 to suspend the issuance of authorisations to enter into indigenous lands, except for activities that are necessary for the continuity of essential services, such</p>
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							<p>as security, health care, food and water, medicines and fuel. Furthermore, Palmares Cultural Foundation (<i>Fundação Cultural Palmares</i>’ or ‘FCP’) recommended Companies to suspend all activities conducted nearby <i>quilombola</i> (traditional afro-descendants) communities, as well as any socioenvironmental consultancies that are being carried out.</p>
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<p><u>Canada</u></p> <p>Contributor: Jonathan Cocker</p>	<p>British Columbia:</p> <p>Requirements under the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> (EMA environmentalcompliance@gov.bc.ca) and the <i>Integrated Pest Management Act</i> (IPMA ipmreporting@gov.bc.ca) remain in effect and all reasonable measures should be taken to comply. If unable to meet the requirements in response to Covid-19, the MOE requires notice of the non-compliance, including rationale and mitigative measures taken.</p>	<p>Permit and licence requirements have generally remained in full force and effect during Covid-19, consistent with the regulators' view across Canada that environmental compliance matters remain essential duties of the permit/licence holders.</p> <p>As discussed elsewhere in this summary, there have been allowances given to permit/licence parties to provide partial reporting information required under such permits and licences.</p> <p>Further, regulators have indicated that their ability to enforce permitting and licencing</p>	<p>In every province and territory of Canada, waste management has been declared an 'essential service' and operations have not been legally altered. There have, however, been a number of municipalities in Canada which have reduced their kerbside collection recyclables, sending increasing volumes of wastes to general landfill.</p>	<p>There have not been substantive changes to provincial guidelines on remediation and/or clean up standards and requirements applicable during Covid-19.</p>	<p>As a result of Covid-19, reduced or modified operations at government offices and regulatory tribunals, physical distancing requirements have impacted environmental administration matters.</p> <p>A few of the notable administrative changes are:</p> <p>Federal</p> <p>Proposed Amendments to the Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) Regulations</p> <p>The Minister of Environment and Climate Change will develop regulations amending the OBPS Regulations to the annual reporting</p>	<p>As of 29 April 2020: The Government of Canada recommends the following: maintaining two metres distance or wearing non-medical masks or homemade face coverings if two metres social distancing cannot be maintained</p> <p>There is currently no guidance on requirements/recommendations for other PPE besides masks or for temperature/symptoms screening.</p> <p>Quebec</p> <p>The provincial employment commission, CNESST, published three screening questions to ask employees daily upon their arrival to the workplace. If any employee answers 'Yes' to these questions, they must stay home and away from the workplace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have any of these symptoms: cough, 	<p>Federal and provincial initiatives around environmental standards for products with environmental impacts continued, though there has been a delay in implementation. For instance, Environment and Climate Change Canada extended its assessment period for the stakeholder input.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/evaluating-existing-substances/dr</p>
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	<p>Mandatory timeframes for filing appeals at the Environmental Appeal Board, the Forest Appeals Tribunal and the Oil and Gas Appeal Tribunal were suspended effective 18 March 2020, until further notice at the end of the Covid-19 public health crisis.</p> <p>Under an amendment to the <i>Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act</i> acceptance incomplete emission reports or compliance reports is permissible in some circumstances.</p>	<p>compliance matters will be more limited during Covid-19.</p>			<p>deadline to 1 October 2020. This would also extend the deadlines for providing certain compensation for excess greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>British Columbia</p> <p>Carbon Tax</p> <p>British Columbia will not increase the provincial carbon tax as scheduled in response to Covid-19. Provincial carbon tax payments have also been extended to 30 September 2020.</p> <p>Ontario</p> <p>Environmental Bill of Rights –</p>	<p>fever, difficulty breathing, sudden loss of smell?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you been out of the country in the last 2 weeks? Are you in contact with someone who has Covid-19? <p>While the commission uses mandatory language with respect to this guidance, asking these questions has not been part of a public health order.</p> <p>On 12 April 2020: Issued guidance on preventive measures in the workplaces to comply with public health recommendations.</p> <p>On 9 April 2020: Interim Recommendations for Workers on Construction Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise workers not to report to work if displaying symptoms. Promote hand hygiene: hand washing for 20 seconds, using alcohol- 	<p>aft-science-assessment-plastic-pollution.html</p> <p>Similarly, a number of provincial and municipal initiatives around plastic carrier bag restrictions have been delayed during the pandemic.</p>
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	<p>Alberta</p> <p>The Minister of Environment and Parks has permitted non-adherence to certain reporting requirements under the <i>Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction</i> (TIER) Regulation and the <i>Renewable Fuels Standard</i> (RFS) Regulation.</p> <p>Relaxed requirements under the <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i> (EPEA), the <i>Water Act</i> (WA) and the <i>Public Lands Act</i> (PLA) and temporary amendment to</p>				<p>Temporary Exemptions</p> <p>There are temporary exemptions from posting requirements in Part II of the EBR for proposals for Acts, policies, regulations and instruments.</p> <p>Québec</p> <p>The <i>Centre de contrôle environnemental du Québec</i> ('CCEQ') published directives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and health and safety obligations are unchanged. However, other field inspections and off-site inspections will be 	<p>based gel sanitiser, avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote coughing or sneezing into elbows. • Enforce physical distancing of two metres between individuals and make changes as required to allow for the two metres distancing rule. <p>Certain measures should be considered if two metres physical distancing is not possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use protective eyewear. • Have physical barriers between workers. • As much as possible, limit sharing of equipment and transportation by assigning workers to the same areas/vehicles. • Favour small teams. • Clean work areas frequently. • Wherever PPE is used, promote hygienic disposal of non-reusable equipment and hygienic 	
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	<p>requirements under the <i>Air Monitoring Directive</i> (AMD).</p> <p>There are relaxed requirements under the <i>Oil and Gas Conservation Act</i> (OGCA), <i>Coal Conservation Act</i> (CCA) and <i>Oil Sands Conservation Act</i> (OSCA).</p> <p>Similarly, there are modifications to the TIER regulations to extend the deadline to submit 2019 compliance reports and emissions reduction plan reports.</p> <p>There is modified EPEA suspending all requirements to report information pursuant to</p>				<p>limited in the current context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCEQ will be provide some flexibility around the use of sanctions – for those businesses that have environmental obligations and who, following the Québec government's recommendations, have temporarily ceased their activities or started providing essential services. 	<p>removal of reusable PPE and of work clothes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid-19 Tool Kit for all sectors <p>Ontario</p> <p>Under the <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act</i> an employer has a general obligation to take reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of its workers. In the context of a pandemic, an employer can also expect workers to exercise their right to refuse unsafe work based on what they perceive as inadequate protections.</p> <p>During the Covid-19 pandemic, it is essential that employers implement appropriate protective measures by following the latest guidance of their municipal and provincial public health agencies, as well as the latest guidance of the Public Health Agency of Canada:</p>	
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	<p>provisions in approvals or registrations issued under EPEA.</p> <p>Ontario</p> <p>Guidance on requirements for monitoring and reporting during the Covid-19 crisis has been promised but, to date, has not been provided.</p> <p>Quebec</p> <p>The Quebec Ministry of the Environment and Fight against Climate Change (MELCC) has issued guidance on its website regarding compliance inspection</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• restricting individuals from the workplace based on the official criteria for recommended or required self-isolation, including returning from travels outside Canada;• requiring employees who have even mild Covid-19 symptoms, as recognised by PHAC, to stay at home, contact public health authorities and follow their directions;• encouraging social distancing to reduce transmission, which may include facilitating remote work arrangements and rearranging the workplace for other workers as practical; and promoting good hygiene practices, including frequent hand-washing, avoiding the touching of one's face with unwashed hands, coughing or sneezing into one's elbow and ensuring the regular cleaning of high-touch	
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	<p>activities during the Covid-19 state of emergency. The MELCC will amend its delivery of compliance services to be consistent with the government position on Covid-19 that is focused on social distancing and take into account the challenges faced by businesses.</p> <p>Under the MELCC guidance, businesses must do everything they can to avoid causing damage to the environment and they must continue to comply with legal obligations for situations that may have a health and safety impact. As such, compliance inspections by the</p>					<p>surfaces throughout the workplace.</p>	
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	<p>MELCC, other than those related to responding to certain environmental matters will be limited.</p> <p>In many non-compliance situations, enforcement measures will not be used.</p>						
<p><u>Chile</u></p> <p>Contributor: Carey y Cía. Ltda.</p>	<p>The Superintendence of Environment ('SOE') established (by means of Exempt Resolution No. 497/20202) that in case of difficulties to comply with applicable environmental obligations due to Covid-19's context,</p>	<p>In addition to the general instructions of the SOE regarding the compliance with environmental permits and licenses within the context of Covid-19, the Subsecretary of Fishing and Aquaculture suspended (by</p>	<p>The Ministry of Environment extended (by means of Exempt Resolution No. 282) the term to submit the annual report to the Wastes Declaration National System until April 30 2020.</p>	<p>No specific measures have been issued regarding Guidelines for Remediations and Cleanups.</p>	<p>Besides the measures adopted by the SOE and the EAS, other administrative bodies with environmental faculties have adopted certain measures:</p> <p>1. The Water Bureau suspended (by means of the</p>	<p>In addition to the general instructions of the SOE regarding the compliance with environmental applicable obligations within the context of Covid-19 (by means of which infringements caused by ensuring workers' safety may be qualified as force majeure events), the Health Ministry stated a number of safety recommendations related to workers and</p>	<p>No measures have been issued regarding Environmental Product Standards.</p>

	<p>the current scenario and the potential qualification of the event as force majeure are going to be taken into account.</p> <p>In addition, the SOE ordered holders of environmental approval resolutions to carry out a permanent monitoring of the status of projects in the context of Covid-19 as well as to: (i) perform weekly reports of the operational conditions of their projects; (ii) execute their applicable contingency/emergency plans in case of any contingency or emergency; (iii) update certain</p>	<p>means of Exempt Resolution No. 886/2020) certain expiration terms for management and exploitation plans related to aquaculture concessions.</p> <p>Regarding granting proceedings of environmental permits, the Environmental Assessment Service ('EAS') suspended (by means of Exempt Resolution No. 20209910194) the environmental impact assessment proceedings with citizenship participation and the term to submit addendas within environmental impact assessment proceedings.</p>			<p>Exempt Resolution No 492/2020) most of the administrative Ongoing proceedings until 18 May 2020.</p> <p>2. The Subsecretary of Fishing and Aquaculture suspended (by means of Exempt Resolution No. 886/2020) all of the terms, proceedings and other measures related to aquaculture concessions. In addition, it provided (by means of Exempt Resolutions No. 886/2020 and No 1068/2020) recommendations for the operation of farming centers.</p> <p>3. The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service adopted (by means</p>	<p>workplaces and the Subsecretary of Fishing and Aquaculture stated (by means of Exempt Resolutions No. 886 and 1068) certain recommendations regarding cultivation and transport in farming centers.</p>	
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	<p>information related to the project at the digital platform of the SOE; and (iv) carry out measures to comply with applicable obligations and to ensure the continuity of projects and activities development.</p> <p>Finally, the SOE suspended (by means of Exempt Resolution No. 518/2020) all of the sanctioning proceedings and implemented virtual channels to receive consultations, complaints and replace its reception office.</p>				<p>of Resolutions No. 565/2020, No. 585/2020, No. 614/2020, No. 648/2020, No. 672/2020 and No. 725/2020) measures to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in salmon farming centers.</p>		
<p><u>Colombia</u></p> <p>Contributor:</p>	Some environmental authorities have	There are no relief measures announced for	In the current framework of the Covid-19	There are no relief measures announced	Currently, all the national, regional and district	Currently, the return to normality is being implemented, gradually, of	There are no relief

<p>Guillermo Tejeiro</p>	<p>ordered the suspension of monitoring and control visits, as well as the suspension of the requirement to submit or comply with obligations as long as they need the practice of a visit.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the preceding, due to the administrative autonomy of each environmental authority, not all of these measures have been adopted uniformly by Colombian authorities.</p>	<p>permits and licenses.</p>	<p>emergency, the national government, as well as governors and mayors, issued legal acts and launched awareness campaigns about the correct disposal of medical and hospital supplies.</p> <p>Official recommendations are:</p> <p>The main recommendations for citizens at home are:</p> <p>In case of having infected or symptomatic people, all the waste generated, while maintaining the condition of home isolation, must be deposited in a double black bag, very well closed, so</p>	<p>for remediations and clean-ups so far.</p>	<p>environmental authorities have suspended face-to-face attention in their headquarters. Due to the administrative autonomy that the environmental authorities have in Colombia, the measures adopted by them concerning the suspension of administrative terms in sanctioning or disciplinary processes, face-to-face care and other administrative procedures will not apply to all jurisdictions.</p> <p>Thus, the validity of these measures must be verified before the authority with jurisdiction in the place where the interested party is located.</p>	<p>specific industries. For a company to be able to work again, it must first submit a biosafety protocol to the competent Mayor's Office so that it is that agency that authorises the initiation of on-site work activities.</p> <p>The protocol is aimed at minimizing the factors that can generate the transmission of the disease and should be implemented by employers and workers in the public and private sectors who need to carry out their activities during the period of the health emergency and ARLs (Labor Risks Agencies)</p> <p>Surveillance and compliance will be overseen by the municipal or district secretariat, taking into account that each sector, company, or entity must carry out, with the support of their occupational risk managers,</p>	<p>measures announced.</p>
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			<p>that they are not susceptible to use.</p> <p>In case of not having people infected or with symptoms, domestic waste must be separated in different colour bags to protect the operator and facilitate the activity of use in line with the colour code; thus:</p> <p>White bags: deposit of usable waste such as plastic, glass, metals, multilayer, paper and cardboard.</p> <p>Black bags: deposit of unusable waste such as toilet paper, napkins, papers and cartons contaminated with food.</p> <p>Green bags: In municipalities where</p>			<p>the adaptations corresponding to their activity. Also defining the different strategies that guarantee social distancing and adequate hygiene and protection processes at work.</p>	
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		<p>there are projects for the use of organic waste, such usable waste will be deposited as food waste (free contamination), agricultural waste, garden pruning waste, etc.</p> <p>Until the sanitary emergency ends, waste from expired medicines, exhausted batteries and lights, pesticide containers, among others, must be separated and stored, which can be delivered to the post-consumption collection points.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the previous, the health sector is excluded from this provision and must, therefore, continue to comply with the provisions in force.</p>				
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			Similarly, institutions, offices and the commercial and manufacturing sector that generate hazardous waste must continue to manage their waste following applicable regulations and deliver such waste in red bags to authorised managers.				
<u>Dominican Republic</u> Contributor: Milagros De Camps	By Resolution Number 058-2020, the national government ordered the suspension of all activities and services that are not considered essential, including environmental services, as well as the temporary suspension of the requirement to comply with obligations until	There are no relief measures announced for permits and licenses.	There are no relief measures announced for waste management.	<p>The national government and mayors of the five provinces most affected by Covid-19 launched intensive clean-up campaigns in a number of identified areas.</p> <p>Places and areas potentially contaminated with Covid-19 must be thoroughly cleaned with alcohol if available or water and</p>	<p>Following the dispositions of the Dominican Government and municipal governments Currently, environmental agencies have suspended all activities and services until further notice.</p> <p>Employees are required to work from home as far as</p>	The gradual de-escalation of restrictive measures aimed at counteracting the spread of Covid-19 among the population started 20 May and will last until 5 July with new corresponding measures to allow for the gradual reopening of activities in the country while avoiding contagion and the expansion of Covid-19. The plan includes measures to restrict the number of workers and re-opening of identified sectors by phases as well as	There are no relief measures announced.

	further notice, this includes all terms and deadlines of pending administrative procedures.			<p>common detergents before being used again.</p> <p>All cleaning operations must be carried out by personnel wearing proper equipment which includes disposable gear (disposable gowns or reusable protective suits, facial protection, disposable gloves).</p>	<p>reasonably practicable (workers may be required to attend their workplaces if they are considered essential workers). Face to face meetings will be limited and virtual meetings are preferred.</p>	defining the different strategies that guarantee social distancing and adequate hygiene and protection at work.	
<p><u>Ecuador</u></p> <p>Contributors: Rafael Pástor Vélez</p> <p>Noboa, Peña & Torres</p>	<p>Since 16 March 2020: The Ministry of the Environment issued the Ministerial Resolution No. MAE-2020-003, valid until the state of exception lasts.</p> <p>Content: It establishes the suspension of deadlines, terms of</p>	<p>Since 16 March 2020: The Ministry of the Environment issued the Ministerial Resolution No. MAE-2020-003, valid until the state of exception lasts.</p> <p>Content: The Ministry of Environment, decreed that the processes of social</p>	<p>Since 11 April 2020: The Technical Working Table 1 (MTT1) - National Emergency Operations Committee (hereinafter 'COE') issued the Biological Waste Management Protocol - Infectious.</p> <p>Waste generation: <u>Level 1:</u> Waste generated in the</p>	<p>Since 14 April 2020: The Ministry of Environment announced the preparation of a proposal to the countries within the region to plan the post Covid-19 response with environmental awareness.</p> <p>Proposed action:</p>	<p>Since 16 March 2020: The Ministry of Environment, through the Water Secretariat issued the Ministerial Agreement No. 2020-0363</p> <p>Content: It establishes the temporary suspension of administrative and</p>	<p>Since March 2020: The Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security issued the Guide to Prevention and Comprehensive Action against to Covid-19 in the field of labour.</p> <p>Content: The following factors are taken into account: risk factors, the different symptoms presented by those infected, the recommendations that</p>	<p>Since 17 March 2020: The Agency for Health Regulation, Control and Surveillance issued the Resolution ARCSA-DE-009-2020-LDCL</p> <p>Content: Sanitary</p>

	<p>administrative and sanctioning procedures, coercive execution and administrative resources, environmental regularisation processes and those foreseen for environmental monitoring and control exercised by the Authority.</p> <p>In-Force: From 16 March 2020 until the end of the State of Exception declared in Executive Decree No. 1017.</p> <p>Source: Ministerial Resolution No. MAE-2020-003, 16 March 2020</p>	<p>participation required in environmental licenses, must be suspended due to the agglomeration of people.</p> <p>In-Force: From 16 March 2020 until the end of the State of Exception declared in Executive Decree No. 1017.</p> <p>Source: Ministerial Resolution No. MAE-2020-003, 16 March 2020</p>	<p>facilities made available for the care of isolated people (ie hotels, conference centers, etc).</p> <p><u>Level 2:</u> Waste generated in health care facilities for the initial treatment of people with symptoms of Covid-19</p> <p><u>Level 3:</u> Waste generated in health care facilities for the treatment of confirmed Covid-19 patients.</p> <p>Collection guidelines: <u>Level 1:</u> The waste must be collected in a segregated manner. It must be sealed in a knotted plastic bag, after being labelled. The collector must wear gloves and a mask and the waste will be collected by each</p>	<p>Call for Environment Ministers of the so-called Leticia Pact composed of: Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Guyana and Suriname. Reinforce actions against the coronavirus pandemic, from the perspective of sustainable development and the impact on the prevention of future health emergencies.</p> <p>Objectives: Joint construction of an environmental agenda among the countries that are part of the Leticia Pact to reactivate sustainable production and promote bioeconomy.</p> <p>Source: Ministry of the Environment Bulletin No. 058, 14 April 2020.</p>	<p>sanctioning procedures at a national level due to the State of Exception (ie procedures for authorisations for the use and productive use of water, general and simplified procedure, coercive enforcement procedures, administrative appeals and review and any administrative procedure exercised by this authority, which is pending</p> <p>In-Force: From 16 March 2020 until the end of the State of Exception provided for in the Executive Decree No. 1017 or the derogatory of this resolution is resolved.</p>	<p>companies should take into account in order to return to activities, which is considered high, low and medium risk exposure, emergency kits and occupational hygiene units.</p> <p>Source: Guide to Prevention and Comprehensive Action against to Covid-19, March 2020</p> <p>Since 6 April 2020: The Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security issued the Guide to the Medical and Technical Qualification of Occupational Accidents by Covid-19, valid until the state of exception lasts.</p> <p>Content: Cases diagnosed as Covid-19 will be treated as an accident at work for workers in companies that carry out related activities to health; and the ones of basic needs.</p>	<p>Technical Regulations for the registration of products whose use has been authorised in the sanitary emergency. The guidelines for the certification process of products authorised for use in sanitary emergency, as well as the criteria for the control and monitoring of such products.</p> <p>In-Force: Temporary authorisation for the duration of the state of emergency.</p> <p>Source:</p>
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			<p>Municipal Authority within their jurisdiction.</p> <p><u>Level 2:</u> Disinfection with 5per cent sodium hypochlorite, segregated collection until delivery to the Municipal Authority (as long as it has capacity, otherwise to authorised managers). The waste must be kept inside a two-layer red bag (two red bags), the liquids and sharp objects in disposable containers, the operators must wear the regulatory PPE.</p> <p><u>Level 3:</u> Disinfection of waste with 5per cent sodium hypochlorite, segregated collection until delivery to the Municipal Authority</p>		<p>Source: Ministerial Area No. 2020-0363, 16 March 2020</p>	<p>Characteristics to be considered a case:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If it was a confirmed case of Covid-19. 2. Establish when the pathology began and in what form (being the most precise possible). 3. If you were directly exposed to persons with confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19. 4. Order, chronologically, the symptoms by order of appearance. 5. Determine if the patient has attended any of the following during the course of the pathology doctor, has received any indication, or treatment and what effects have had the same ones. 6. Determine the symptoms that prevail at the time you are conducting the interrogation, if any. <p>Source: Guide to the Medical and Technical Qualification of</p>	<p>Resolution ARCSA-DE-009-2020-LDCL, 17 March 2020</p> <p>Since March 18 2020: The Agency for Plant and Animal Health Regulation and Control issued Resolution 0039</p> <p>Content: It approves the Food Hygiene Manual in Outlets. In this sense, the Resolution seeks to provide the basic information on food safety, so that the workers who directly</p>
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			<p>(with capacity, subsidiarily authorised managers). The waste must be kept inside a double layer of red bag (two red bags), the liquids and short punctures in disposable containers and the operators must wear the regulatory PPE.</p> <p>Treatment or disposal: For Level 1 and Level 2 waste, disinfection processes are applied through autoclaving or incineration. If the Municipal Authority does not have the technology, it must be delivered to an authorised manager.</p> <p>From March 2020: The National Technical Working Group (MTT2) – COE</p>			<p>Occupational Accidents by Covid-19, 4 June 2020.</p> <p>Since 25 April 2020: The Technical Working Table 6 (MTT6) - National Emergency Operations Committee (hereinafter 'COE') issued the Guide and General plan for the Gradual return to the occupational activities.</p> <p>Content: To establish a progressive return to work process in the companies of the private and public sectors. The following factors should be taken into consideration such as: sectors involved, localities, population density, nature of activities, location of workers, identification of personnel at risk, among others. The main recommended modality is teleworking, establishing rigorous parameters of control by</p>	<p>manage food implement said manual to the particular needs of each establishment .</p> <p>Source: Resolution 0039, 18 March 2020</p> <p>Since 23 March 2020: The Agency for Regulation, Control and Health Surveillance issued the Protocol for collective food establishments</p> <p>Content: In face of the health emergency produced by</p>
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			<p>developed the Protocol for the Handling and Final Disposal of corpses with presumption of Covid-19. Out-of-hospital.</p> <p>Content: It sets out the procedures for final disposal of corpses, the procedure to avoid contagion, establishment of notification mechanisms and registration of cases.</p> <p>Equipment and supplies: Goggles, cap, protective suit, N95 mask, gloves, rubber boots. Bag to pack corpses with a zipper in case of fluid spills, anti-fluid sheet or cloth, disinfectant for hospital use or sodium hypochlorite solution, packing</p>			<p>verifying compliance with activities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour shall carry out the necessary controls in order to monitor and verify the compliance with these obligations in the public and private sectors.</p> <p>The progressive return process will have the ProSalud Strategy as an umbrella, which health promotion and disease prevention for workers will be ensured.</p> <p>Source: Guide and General plan for the Gradual return to the occupational activities, 4 June 2020.</p> <p>Since 3 May 2020: The Ministry of Labour issues Ministerial Agreement No. MDT-2020-093</p> <p>Content: It issues guidelines for the</p>	<p>Covid-19, the protocol seeks to guide users in the right way to handle food in collective food establishments. The protocol addresses the application of possible measures in emergency situations such as earthquakes, floods, volcano eruptions, among others, to prevent foodborne diseases.</p> <p>Source: Protocol 23 March 2020</p> <p>Since 1 April 2020: The Agency</p>
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			<p>tape and safety harnesses.</p> <p>Processes:</p> <p>Spraying of corpses: The corpse is placed in the sealable sanitary bag, which should be sprayed with disinfectant or sodium hypochlorite solution.</p> <p>Securing the body bag: The body bag should be incorporated into the same safety strap (synchro) in order to guarantee its sealing, avoiding possible openings.</p> <p>Cleaning and disinfection: Disinfection of the site shall be carried out according to protocols established by the relevant authorities.</p>			<p>reactivation of the economy through the progressive return to face-to-face work activities of the private sector. Caution the health of workers in the face of the Covid-19 disease outbreak, following the provisions and protocols issued by the COE.</p> <p>Source: Ministerial Agreement No. MDT-2020-093, 3 May 2020</p> <p>Since 3 May 2020: The Ministry of Labour issues Ministerial Agreement No. MDT-2020-094</p> <p>Content: It issues guidelines for the return to face-to-face work activities of the public service; and regulate the authorisation of emerging special labour days (<i>'jornadas especiales emergentes'</i>) required by public institutions during the declaration of health emergency, following the</p>	<p>for Regulation, Control and Health Surveillance issued the Authorisation for the Marketing of Processed Foods</p> <p>Content: It issues an authorisation that allows the circulation of products without having the graphic system of coloured bars placed horizontally (Traffic Light) required by the Health Regulation of Processed Foods for Human Consumption.</p>
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			<p>General guidelines: Identification of the corpses 24 hours later, packing and labeling with the biosecurity norms, individualizing the corpses for their final disposal.</p> <p>Source: -Protocol for the management of waste produced by Covid-19. -Protocol for the handling and final disposal of corpses with history and presumption of Covid-19 Out-of-hospital, March 2020.</p>			<p>provisions and protocols issued by the COE.</p> <p>Source: Ministerial Area No. MDT-2020-094, 3 May 2020.</p>	<p>Source: Communicate, 1 April 2020</p> <p>Since 10 April 2020: The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; Ministry of Public Health; Agency for Phyto and Zoosanitary Regulation and Control; Association of Municipalities of Ecuador; Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fisheries; and, National Agency for Regulation, Control and Health Surveillance issued the Protocol for</p>
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							<p>the Hygiene of Food in Food Establishment s by Technical Working Table 6 MTT6-PRT-002</p> <p>Content: It issues the protocol in order to ensure the safety and suitability of food, prevent food contamination , decrease the risk of foodborne illness (ETA) and prevent the transmission of Covid-19 in food management and crowding establishment s.</p> <p>Source:</p>
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							Protocol for food hygiene in outlets MTT6-PRT-002, 10 April 2020.
<p><u>France</u></p> <p>Contributors:</p> <p>Frédérique Chaillou</p> <p>Alexandre Bensoussan</p> <p>Thibault Julia</p>	<p>From 24 March 2020: a state of health emergency is declared. The Parliament empowered the Government to take the adaptive measures which are necessary due to the state of health emergency.</p> <p>From 12 March 2020: suspension of the deadlines of prescription and environmental procedures with the exception to certain public inquiries for urgent projects of national interest.</p> <p>From 3 April 2020: a decree unfreezes</p>	<p>From 12 March 2020, instruction of environmental permits applications is suspended and is expected to be officially unsuspended after 23 June 2020.</p>	<p>From 20 April 2020: extension of the authorised storage time prior to elimination of infectious and similar healthcare wastes due to the increase of production of such wastes.</p> <p>The possibility to spreading sludge from wastewater treatment plants for agricultural purposes has also been adapted due to the potential contamination risks and will depend on the time at which the sludge was produced.</p>	N/A	<p>From 12 March 2020: suspension of the deadlines of prescription and environmental procedures with the exception to certain public inquiries for urgent projects of national interest.</p> <p>All administrative proceedings for which no specific emergency derogations were taken are expected to be officially unsuspended after 23 June 2020.</p>	<p>From 11 May 2020: With the end of containment, most of the shops can reopen (except restaurants, bars, coffee shops) and workers can go back to work, but safety measures must be implemented in each company.</p> <p>These measures must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discussed with worker representatives and the health and safety at work service - provided in a document in which risks of contaminations are evaluated (document called 'DUEP') - communicated to all workers <p>Teleworking is still strongly recommended and for workers who can do it and</p>	<p>The Government has taken several measures to facilitate trade and manufacturing of biocidal products for human hygiene. By derogation to EU regulations, the number of facilities authorised to manufacture and place such products on the market is extended until 1 September 2020.</p>

	<p>the deadlines for the carrying out of certain environmental remediation and monitoring set by formal notices and prefectural orders for regulated facilities and certain deadlines for carrying out measures in terms of waste management, hydraulic works or species protection.</p>					<p>can be imposed by their employer.</p> <p>For workers who must come to work, employers must provide safety measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- making sure workers can respect current precautionary measures- granting each worker at least four metre² of working surface- rethinking the circulation of workers inside the company to always keep a safety perimeter of one metre between each worker- providing masks and gloves to workers if they cannot keep a safe distance with other people- modifying time schedule of workers whenever it is possible to avoid having workers arriving and working at the same time <p>To help employers take the appropriate safety measures the Ministry of</p>	
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						Labor published a guide for each sector.	
<u>Germany</u> Contributor: Markus P. Beham	The <i>Protection of the Population in an Epidemic of National Scope Act</i> ('Gesetz zum Schutz der Bevölkerung bei einer epidemischen Lage von nationaler Tragweite') of 27 March 2020 amended the <i>Infection Prevention Act</i> ('Gesetz zur Verhütung und Bekämpfung von Infektionskrankheiten beim Menschen', short 'Infektionsschutzgesetz') to grant competences to the Federal Ministry of Health to take measures for the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The	On 29 April 2020, the government adopted the <i>Planning Safeguard Act</i> ('Gesetz zur Sicherstellung ordnungsgemäßer Planungs- und Genehmigungsverfahren während der Covid-19-Pandemie', short 'Planungssicherstellungsgesetz') introduced by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. It addresses the practical difficulties faced during administrative procedures	In early to mid-March, a number of waste facilities were closed but were reopened shortly. A number of provinces have issued guidelines on waste contaminated with Coronavirus, usually referring to the recommendations of the RKI. Measures include suspension of certain formal documentation requirements. The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community clarified on 17 March 2020 that waste is to be considered a commodity subject to cross-border export.	See Waste Management .	Face-to-face attention is restricted to prefixed appointments in many agencies since mid-March. As far as possible, interaction with agencies and other official offices is requested to be conducted electronically or on the phone. See also Permits and Licenses on the <i>Planning Safeguard Act</i> .	On 16 April 2020, the Federal Minister of Labour, together with the Managing Director of German Social Accident Insurance presented the <i>Covid-19 Occupational Safety Standard</i> ('Arbeitsschutzstandard Covid-19'). It includes measures to ensure social distancing, general reduction of contact between employees, wearing of masks covering mouth and nose, additional hygiene, prioritisation of sick leave and protection of risk groups. Though the <i>Standard</i> does not constitute a source of law, non-compliance may constitute a violation of the duty of care placed on employers. In accordance with the <i>Biological Substances Ordinance</i> ('Verordnung über Sicherheit und	On 4 March 2020, following an increased demand for disinfectants, the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, together with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Federal Ministry of Health, issued short-term exemptions in accordance with Article 55 (1) of the EU <i>Biocidal Products</i>

	<p>provincial district agencies are tasked with the implementation of the <i>Infection Prevention Act</i>. At the federal level, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) serves as a focal point for coordination and exchange of information between the federal levels.</p> <p>Complementary to the federal <i>Infection Prevention Act</i>, Bavaria had previously adopted the <i>Bavarian Infection Prevention Act</i> ('Bayerische Infektionsschutzgesetz') of 25 March 2020 with the aim of preventing strains on the public health</p>	<p>throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Until 31 March 2021, steps within planning and approval applications that would otherwise require the physical presence may be carried out online.</p> <p>The <i>Protection of the Population in an Epidemic of National Scope Act</i> of 27 March 2020 amended the Building Code to include a new Section 246b with exceptions for public construction of buildings for the purpose of health or the care of persons infected or possibly infected with the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 from compliance with certain permit</p>				<p>Gesundheitsschutz bei Tätigkeiten mit Biologischen Arbeitsstoffen', short 'Biostoffverordnung') which applies to persons exposed to such substances in their work (including in the treatment of patients but possibly also where exposure to infected individuals occurs), Covid-19 has been categorised as a risk group 3 pathogen. This entails a number of hygiene measures for employees and information obligations for the employer, particularly an instruction for the proper conduct in the workplace and the designation of a person responsible for supervision and coordination.</p> <p>On 13 May 2020, the Federal Chancellor and the Federal Minister of Labour announced that they would adopt stricter regulations for the meat producing industry.</p>	<p><i>Regulation</i>, in order to facilitate production and availability of disinfectants. The measures were last amended on 9 April 2020 and are valid until 9 September 2020.</p>
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	<p>system. Its application is restricted to 31 December 2020.</p> <p>A circular of the German Accreditation and Licensing Body for Environmental Auditors ('Deutsche Akkreditierungs- und Zulassungsstelle für Umweltgutachter') allows for an extension of audit and registration deadlines for organisations registered under the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) to extend verification and registration for up to three months. The extension is cumulative to any extension already</p>	<p>requirements. The provision is valid until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Due to the lack of protective equipment, German customs announced on their website that importers of donated equipment are exempt from import duties and tax. Although levies still apply to commercial imports, exceptions may be made where official documentation is provided that the equipment is intended for free distribution.</p> <p>The Focal Point Packaging Registry ('Zentrale Stelle Verpackungsregister') has emphasised</p>				<p>Depending on federal province or municipality, the wearing of masks covering mouth and nose may be required in other contexts.</p>	
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	<p>granted. It can be applied for with a short explanation in written form, via telephone, or electronically.</p> <p>A number of provinces have suspended safety audits under certain conditions. Some district governments in Bavaria have decided to postpone monitoring and inspection of emissions wherever possible until further notice.</p>	<p>the necessity to comply with the 15 May 2020 deadline for filing a declaration of completeness, in accordance with Section 34(1)(11) <i>Packaging Act</i> ('Gesetz über das Inverkehrbringen, die Rücknahme und die hochwertige Verwertung von Verpackungen', 'Verpackungsgesetz'). Non-compliance may be subject to an administrative fine of up to €100,000.</p>					
<p><u>Italy</u></p> <p>Contributors:</p> <p>Maria Cristina Breida</p>	<p>Decree 17 March 2020, No 18</p> <p>All terms and deadlines of the pending administrative procedures have been suspended</p>	<p>Decree 17 March 2020, No 18, Article 103</p> <p>The validity of all environmental authorisations has been extended for a period of 90 days</p>	<p>Decree 17 March 2020, No 18, Art. 113-bis</p> <p>With regard to the temporary storage of waste, the allowed quantity has been doubled and</p>	<p>Circular No. 5443 of 22 February 2020 of the Ministry of Health</p> <p>This Circular applies in the event that a person affected by Covid-19 has been</p>	<p>Decree 17 March 2020, No 18, Art. 113</p> <p>Deadlines for the following submissions have been extended until 30 June 2020:</p>	<p>Prime Minister's Decree (DPCM) of 26 April 2020</p> <p>The DPCM provides, as an essential condition for the reopening of companies, the respect of the contents of the '<i>Shared Protocol for the Regulation of measures</i></p>	

<p>(Legance Avvocati Associati)</p> <p>Chiara Colamonico and Ludovica Cesari</p> <p>(Macchi di Cellere Gangemi)</p>	<p>until 15 May 2020. Some exceptions apply and interested parties may submit a motivated request for resuming urgent procedures.</p> <p>Judicial hearings scheduled until 11 May 2020 have been postponed to a later date and terms/deadlines relating to pending judicial proceedings have been suspended until 11 May 2020. Some exceptions apply, due to reasons of particular urgency.</p>	<p>elapsing from the end of the state of emergency declared by the Council of Ministers, currently foreseen for 31 July 2020. Therefore all existing environmental authorisations, certificates attestations, permits, concessions and enabling acts, expiring between 31 January and 31 July, will be valid until 29 October 2020.</p>	<p>the maximum storage time limit has been extended to 18 months.</p>	<p>inside the business premises.</p> <p>Due to the possible survival of the virus in the environment for some time, places and areas potentially contaminated with Covid-19 must be thoroughly cleaned with water and common detergents before being used again.</p> <p>All cleaning operations must be carried out by personnel wearing PPE (respiratory filter FFP2 or FFP3, facial protection, disposable gloves, long sleeve waterproof disposable gown) and follow the measures indicated for the safe removal of PPE (undressing). After use, disposable PPE must be disposed of as potentially infected material.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual waste declaration (MUD); • annual declaration on quantity of batteries placed on the national market and on batteries waste • annual declaration of the quantities of WEEE treated • payment of the annual fee for registration in the National Register of Environmental Operators 	<p><i>to contrast and contain the spreading of the Covid-19 virus in the workplace'</i> signed on 24 April 2020 between the Government and social partners, as well as, for the respective areas of competence, the shared protocol for construction sites and the shared protocol for the transport and logistics sector. Enterprises (even those that were not suspended) must therefore guarantee the implementation of the protocols indicated above and ensure adequate levels of protection. Otherwise, the suspension of the activity may be ordered until the safety conditions are restored.</p> <p>Given the peculiarities of each individual company and the territorial situations, the anti-contagion protocol that will be adopted by each individual company, in addition to the provisions of the Shared Protocol of</p>	
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				<p>All frequently touched surfaces, such as wall surfaces, doors, etc., must be cleaned with particular care.</p>		<p>24 April 2020 (and the additional protocols for construction sites and logistics) must also include all those additional measures that are appropriate due to the peculiarity of the company's production (this activity should be carried out after consulting the company union representatives).</p> <p>Main measures:</p> <p>1) Information to all workers and anyone who enters the company about the provisions of the Authorities, by delivering and/or posting specific information leaflets;</p> <p>2) How to enter the company: Before entering the workplace, staff may be subjected to body temperature checks and will not be able to access in the event of a result greater than 37.5°;</p> <p>3) Access method of the suppliers: Companies must identify entry, transit and</p>	
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						<p>exit procedures for external suppliers;</p> <p>4) Cleaning and sanitizing within the company: the company must perform daily cleaning and periodic sanitisation of the premises and tools at work;</p> <p>5) Personal hygiene precautions: it is mandatory that people present in the company take all hygienic precautions, especially for the hands. To this aim, the company (I) must provide suitable hand cleansing means and (II) recommends frequent hand cleaning with soap and water.</p>	
<p><u>Mexico</u></p> <p>Contributor:</p> <p>Leopoldo Burguete-Stanek</p>	<p>From 24 March 2020: The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources established the days that were going to be considered as unworkable for the purposes of the administrative acts</p>	N/A	<p>From 31 March 2020: The Ministry of Health set forth the extraordinary actions to be implemented in order to address the health emergency caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus, within such activities the ones involving the</p>	N/A	<p>From 31 March 2020: The Ministry of Health set forth the extraordinary actions to be implemented in order to address the health emergency caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus. The extraordinary actions were:</p>	<p>From 31 March 2020: The Ministry of Health set forth some mandatory actions to be taken for all those sectors and activities defined as essentials, such as:</p> <p>a) No gatherings of more than 50 people; b) Frequent hand wash habits; c) Coughing or sneezing,</p>	N/A

	<p>and procedures substantiated by and before it, as well as deadlines for the period starting on 23 March and ending on 17 April 2020.</p> <p>From 17 April 2020: The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources extended the period aforementioned starting from 20 April and ending on 30 April. The corresponding deadlines and terms will not be computed in the administrative procedures that are substantiated before the Ministry.</p> <p>From 30 April 2020: The Ministry of Environment</p>		<p>proper disposal of biological-infectious hazardous waste (RPBI), as well as cleaning and sanitising medical units at different levels of care are included.</p> <p>All those involved in the proper disposal of biological-infectious hazardous waste (RPBI) were informed that they must strictly comply with their authorisations and applicable legal provisions established for the integral management of infectious biological hazardous waste that generate, transport, storage, treatment or finally dispose, even during the period of the health emergency, as well as carry out</p>		<p>immediate suspension from 30 March through 30 April 2020, of non-essential activities; ii) only the activities considered as essential were able to operate, such as: those directly necessary to attend the sanitary emergency, such as labor activities on the medical, paramedical, administrative and support fields within the entire health system public and private. Likewise, those who participate in the supply, services and supplier base, of which the pharmaceutical fields stands out, for its production and distribution (pharmacies), the manufacture of consumables,</p>	<p>covering nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or into the forearm; d) Greeting from a safe distance (no kissing, shaking hands, or hugging); e) All other current precautionary measures for keeping a safe distance issued by the Federal Ministry of Health.</p>	
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	<p>and Natural Resources set forth the days that were going to be considered as unworkable for the purposes of the administrative acts and procedures substantiated by and before it, as well as deadlines for the period starting on 5 May and ending on 29 May 2020.</p>		<p>compliance with the actions and measures established.</p>		<p>medical equipment and technologies for the health care, as well as those involved in the adequate disposition of hazardous biological infectious waste (HBIW), as well as the cleaning and sanitation of the medical units in the different care levels; iii) those involved in the public security and citizen protection; for the defense of the national integrity and national sovereignty; law procurement and enforcement, as well as legislative activities at the federal and state levels; iv) The sectors considered as essential for the fundamental performance of the</p>		
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					economy: financial, tax collection, distribution and sell of energy, petrol and gas stations, generation and distribution of drinking water, food and nonalcoholic beverages industry, food markets, supermarkets, self-service shops, convenience stores and sale of prepared foods; passenger and cargo transport services, agricultural, fishing and livestock, agroindustry, chemical, cleaning products production industries; hardware stores, courier services, private security watches, childcare and day care, retirement homes and day care		
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					for the elderly, shelters and care facilities for female victims of violence and their offspring, telecommunication and information media, private emergency systems, mortuary and burial services, storage and cold chain for essential consumables, logistics (airports, seaports and railways), as well as those activities which suspension may have irreversible effects to continue with the latter; v) The ones directly related to the operation of the government's social programs; vi) The conservation and maintenance of critical infrastructure which assures the production and		
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					<p>distribution of essential services, such as: drinking water, electrical energy, gas, oil, gasoline, jet fuel, basic sanitation, public transportation, first class hospital and medical infrastructure, amongst others which could be defined under this category.</p> <p>All persons residing within Mexico, including those arriving from foreign countries, who do not participate in essential labour activities, were strongly encouraged to comply with the responsible voluntary shelter in place from 30 March through to</p>		
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					<p>30 April 2020, which meant the chosen limitation of mobility, remaining in their private address for as much time as possible.</p> <p>The voluntary responsible shelter was strictly applied to all persons of more than 60 years of age or diagnosed with high blood pressure, diabetes, heart or pulmonary disease, immunosuppression (acquired or induced), pregnant or immediate postpartum, regardless of his/her professional activity being considered essential. The essential personnel of public interest had the possibility to voluntarily, show up for work.</p>		
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					<p>It was also established that once suspension of non-essential activities and the voluntary responsible shelter in place was terminated, the Ministry of Health, in coordination with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Labor were going to issue the guidelines for a gradual and sectioned return to the labour, economic and social activities of the entire Mexican population.</p> <p>All census involving mobilisation of people and physical interaction were canceled.</p> <p>The integration of the General Health</p>		
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					<p>Council was modified to include the a) Head of the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>b) Head of the Ministry of Foreign Relations; c) Head of the Ministry of National Defense; d) Holder of the Ministry of the Navy; e) Head of the Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection; and f) Head of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.</p> <p>From 6 April 2020: In accordance with the above mentioned the Ministry of Health issued the technical guidelines applicable to the companies for which closure might result on irreparable damages on their</p>		
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					<p>operations, as well as the companies performing essential activities.</p> <p>6 April's Communication, further defined that steel, cement, glass and information technology companies providing services that ensure the functionality of information technology systems of the public, private and social sectors, shall be understood as those companies which a closure might result on irreparable damages, reason why they were able to continue operating at their minimal capacity, as long as an email was sent to the</p>		
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					<p>Ministry of Economy.</p> <p>Likewise, steel, cement and glass producing companies under valid contract with the Federal Government, were permitted to continue their operations so that they are able to meet their obligations for the <i>Dos Bocas, Tren Maya, Aeropuerto Felipe Ángeles, Corredor Transmicio projects and their obligations for essential projects with Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) and the Federal Commission of Electricity (CFE).</i></p> <p>From 13 May 2020: The General Health Council published in</p>		
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					<p>the Federal Official Gazette the Official Communication by which the industries of construction, mining and manufacturing of transport equipment were included as essential activities during the sanitary emergency, meaning that they are able to restart their productive operations, following strict protection protocols for all their workers.</p> <p>Lastly, it is established that from 1 June 2020 the Ministry of Health will define a color system for each federal entity. Each color will be associated to an intensity level of allowed economic,</p>		
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					educational and social activities, which will be specified in the corresponding guideline.		
<p><u>South Korea</u></p> <p>Kyungsun Kyle CHOI - KIM & CHANG</p>	<p>As part of the Covid-19 relief measures for businesses, the Ministry of Environment (the 'MOE') adopted the following measures.</p> <p>- Deadline extension for environmental charges (including the waste disposal charge, wastewater discharging/emission charge, and waste charge): by three months to three years upon application</p>	<p>In February 2020, the MOE adopted a 'fast track for permits and licenses' programme, which reduces (i) the review period for grant of permission for hazardous chemical handling facilities, (ii) the processing period for registration of chemical substances, and (iii) the processing period for registration exemption of R&D substances.</p> <p>From April 2020 to December 2021,</p>	<p>In March 2020, to prevent a risk of infection from Covid-19-related wastes (ie wastes generated from Covid-19 confirmed patients), the MOE reduced the periods for storage and incineration of Covid-19 wastes.</p> <p>On 25 February 2020, the MOE temporarily permitted the use of disposable products by food service business (such as restaurants and cafes).</p>	N/A	<p>On 16 April 2020, the MOE exempted annual inspection of hazardous chemical handling facilities that are subject to annual inspection between January and September of 2020.</p> <p>On 22 April 2020, the MOE granted a grace period for mandatory environmental training for employees until the end of 2020.</p>	<p>On 6 May 2020, the Ministry of Employment and Labour issued the Guidelines for 'Distancing in Daily Life'¹ for Business that includes the following recommendations:</p> <p>- Designating a quarantine manager to set up appropriate quarantine measures</p> <p>- Isolating workers with symptoms (fever of at least 37.5°C or respiratory symptoms) from the workplace</p> <p>- Among workers, maintaining a distance of two metres or more (one metre at a minimum)</p>	

¹ 'Distancing in Daily Life' is a term coined to describe the practice of keeping distance in everyday social and more familiar settings as a more relaxed measure from the previously practiced 'Social Distancing'.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deadline extension for submission of the report on emissions details by one month - Reduction/exemption of the dam water charge and the regional water supply charge for declared disaster areas - Extension of the maturity date of the environmental improvement fund and the environmental industry promotion fund - To accommodate increased demand of sanitisers, early enforcement of an amendment to the Act on the Safety Management of Household 	<p>the MOE temporarily exempts the requirement of test data for registration of non-phase-in chemical substances whose annual manufacturing/import volume is less than one tonne.</p>	<p>In May 2020, to deal with increased stock of recycled fuels due to decreased PET demand, the MOE announced a plan to purchase recycled fuels in advance and to keep them in reserve for public use later, and restricted the import of plastic wastes.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing hand sanitisers and placing a notice of personal hygiene rules - Instructing workers to wear a face mask - Monitoring the workers' health conditions by using a contactless thermometer or thermal imaging camera on a daily basis - Not inducing workers to an action which may cause droplets to spread (eg, group rallies) - Reporting a possible group infection to the health authority. 	
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	Chemical Products and Biocides which eases the requirements for use of biocides for sanitisers						
<u>Taiwan</u> Contributors: Anton Ming-zhi Gao, Katherine Yuhh-chinn Juang	Sewage water management at the Covid-19 quarantine centres (12 March 2020) ² Announcement of the proper treatment of sewage water from the quarantine centres (4 Feb 2020) ³	Public announcement of deliberately discarding facemasks with maximum fine of 6000 NTD (around €180) (2 April 2020) ⁴ the Notification on waste disposal for the quarantine centers (13 March 2020) ⁵ , 'home	EPA published different disinfection guideline for household (29 April 2020), ¹¹ business (22 April 2020), ¹² Companies with confirmed diagnosis (16 April 2020) ¹³ , community and public place(23 March 2020) ¹⁴ indoor/outdoor	The loan guarantee and low interest (interest subsidy) programme for replacing old large diesel vehicles with new ones (16 March 2020) ¹⁷ Flexibility of payment to loan to replacing old diesel vehicles with new ones (6 March 2020) ¹⁸ .	Guideline for inspectors before coming to collect the fee from mandated recycling business (19 March 2020) ²⁰ Body temperature inspection before entering EPA offices (12 March 2020) ²¹ . Regulations on restricting medical	The notification on permission and exemption of the use of Environmental medicine (the use of household detergent And dry hand wash are not considered as environmental medicine) (25 Feb 2020) ²⁶ .	

² <https://www.epa.gov.tw/2019-ncov/3CA0BF26836DFEC5/5ae90f7a-4503-486b-b815-a9246a0eeeb2>

³ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=26BCA6DAE1B8FD1C&P=0192aab1-2d53-479e-a2bb-57fb0099c3fa>

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/2019-ncov/3CA0BF26836DFEC5/dd193a7e-f657-4ed1-a2b6-5f440b2bfa8d>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=4F3966B80C857942&P=abf05443-78b1-4271-b168-e49aa634b6cc>

¹¹ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/2019-ncov/3CA0BF26836DFEC5/3b3af4dd-be60-4f19-9c2f-880f70928e7a>

¹² <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=4D5E8ADECA19007A&P=aa12b4a9-794f-4ff1-ab77-21245811ade5>

¹³ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=757C4179B425F611&P=af603a0c-77cd-4dfd-b3f4-e260fc2410c0>

¹⁴ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=BA314725382300E3&P=dcc39011-0150-4381-8080-43edb3937d50>

¹⁷ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/2019-ncov/3CA0BF26836DFEC5/9ca23517-fb3f-4f3a-b6db-f0a4ecfcc653>

¹⁸ <https://enews.epa.gov.tw/Page/3B3C62C78849F32F/11339823-fd3f-4cf0-84fb-60f9a0dce5be>

²⁰ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=2B7EE85686E9E070&P=b0f9049e-8635-498f-9b31-c8cd87c522e6>

²¹ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/2019-ncov/3CA0BF26836DFEC5/8d436f84-302c-45bc-b19e-2c64137ce3f2>

²⁶ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=89B5881AB67B9A99&P=45cb038c-afc6-45e9-87e5-b05cb68d7a5d>

		<p>quarantine' (27 March 2020)⁶ SOP of waste collection, transportation of Covid-19 'home quarantine' persons for central and local government's EPAs (27 March 2020)⁷ and quarantine centres (13 March 2020)⁸.</p> <p>The guideline for on-site inspectors of Recycling Mandatory waste at Covid-19 period (19 March 2020)⁹. The guideline for the reviewing of subsidy to the recycling business</p>	<p>public area (16 April 2020)¹⁵ Disinfection and infection control guidelines for hospitals due to the first hospital cluster infection cases (29 Feb 2020)¹⁶.</p>	<p>EPA collaborating with Ministry of Education to disinfect and clean up and the campus of all level's schools to tackle Covid-19 before the new semester starts (24 Feb 2020)¹⁹.</p>	<p>staffs and social workers going abroad and complement(23 Feb. 2020)²². Announcement of regulatory actions on hospitals incomings (26 Feb 2020)²³ Entry Access Control in Hospitals: No visiting without special permission (3 April 2020)²⁴ Mask Duty for Food Industry (19 Feb 2020)²⁵.</p>		
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⁶ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=17D13C85A8995944&P=146c8c0a-1e89-474d-be78-d2245fe28366>

⁷ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=E79B6AE54B5A9451&P=33dded1f-374b-4586-85ae-e352cc86e9cd>

⁸ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=E0F3064994662FEB&P=835dcf5c-3384-4ba0-a563-1e6b9b395250>

⁹ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=A264E0A2AF8153CE&P=b2fa8581-36a8-4530-9ed3-96c199fe69a7>

¹⁵ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=4A61E446865B951F&P=c4588d50-ce17-43e7-ab3a-30dbd66deba1>

¹⁶ <https://topics.mohw.gov.tw/COVID19/cp-4822-53634-205.html>

¹⁹ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/2019-ncov/3CA0BF26836DFEC5/559882bd-e792-4b77-896e-d756a1415880>

²² <https://topics.mohw.gov.tw/COVID19/cp-4822-53618-205.html>

²³ <https://topics.mohw.gov.tw/COVID19/cp-4822-53627-205.html>

²⁴ <https://topics.mohw.gov.tw/COVID19/cp-4822-53444-205.html>

²⁵ <https://topics.mohw.gov.tw/COVID19/cp-4839-53642-205.html>

		of Recycling Mandatory waste at Covid-19 period(19 March 2020) ¹⁰ .					
<p><u>Uruguay</u></p> <p>Contributor:</p> <p>Beatriz Spiess - Guyer & Regules</p>	<p>Web-based procedures have been implemented allowing certain authorisations that previously had to be done in person to be done online.</p> <p>For instance, as for the control and prevention of industrial pollution, the Ministry of Housing, Land Management and Environment decided to postpone the date by which companies must comply with the annual Environmental</p>	<p>As a result of the declared health emergency, the waste collection and recycling system has given priority to reducing the spread of infection, which has led to a reduction in the activity of manual recycling plants, which account for 5 per cent of the waste treated nationally.</p> <p>On the other hand, the fact that the commercial and business circuits for the collection of recoverable waste have not stopped is a positive aspect.</p>	<p>Without prejudice to the new working methods adopted, the pandemic has not stopped the activity of the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment, which in the midst of the pandemic has reaffirmed its commitment to the restoration of ecosystems as a strategic line of work to contribute to the improvement of the environment, promoting participation, citizen involvement and coordination in the territory, considered key aspects to ensure the</p>	<p>Following the government's exhortation and seeking to avoid crowding and the spread of the virus, public offices (among which are the environmental authorities) have discontinued or reduced face-to-face attention to the public, limiting it to exceptional cases and encouraging online or telephone contact and authorising paperwork that previously had to be done in person now to be done remotely.</p> <p>Likewise, measures of care, cleaning and disinfection have been</p>	<p>Companies which continue with their activity shall comply with resolutions issued by the labor administration.</p> <p>Companies should take preventive and action measures in order to avoid the spread of Covid-19 in the workplace. Employers should set a protocol (within the Bipartite Security Commission and, if any, with the Occupational Health and Prevention Services). Such protocol shall include a minimum content set forth in the regulation (such</p>	<p>Up to now, as a consequence of this pandemic, there has not been any change in Uruguay regarding Environmental Product Standards.</p>	<p>Certain public offices and Municipalities have extended deadlines, both with respect to the validity of certain permits or authorisations and the filing of formalities and with respect to the expiration date of certain taxes.</p>

¹⁰ <https://www.epa.gov.tw/DisplayFile.aspx?FileID=881770345428A913&P=36912890-f8ec-4391-bf49-e5689359910e>

	<p>Operating Reports that those companies established by the regulations must submit. This report must detail energy and fuel consumption, chemical substances used in processes, effluent management and water use, solid waste management, air emissions control and environmental contingency management.</p>	<p>Likewise, as a result of the closing of borders with Brazil, the material arriving at recycling plants has increased. This situation is recognised as transitory to the extent that such material evaded the national system due to smuggling to the neighbouring country.</p> <p>With regards to the collection of household waste (a task carried out by Local Governments), the collection of special waste (furniture, household appliances, etc.) has been stopped. Also, in order to reduce the contact between the</p>	<p>sustainability of the processes. It proposes restoring forests in priority areas and basins for conservation, based on planting native trees and controlling invasive exotic species that displace native ones and reduce natural diversity. In all cases, these are experiences that pursue a common goal: the restoration of the ecological functionality of degraded ecosystems and thus the recovery of the biodiversity that inhabits them.</p> <p>In the same vein, at the end of March, the Ministry has indicated its commitment to water care. Mechanisms for monitoring, analysis</p>	<p>taken in all spaces of these establishments.</p> <p>With regard to current or future reopening measures, it should first be noted that no specific mention has been made concerning environmental issues. Secondly, in Uruguay the government did not impose an obligatory quarantine but exhorted the population to take special care which was strictly observed by the population and which resulted in the temporary closure of many private businesses and public offices.</p> <p>In May, the reopening of these places began gradually, following the health measures recommended by the Ministry of Public</p>	<p>as, ensuring that the workplace and equipment are adequately clean; provision of hygiene material necessary to comply with control measures; placement of visible signs on respiratory hygiene measures; organisation of the work so that among workers and/or the public there is a distance of no less than one and a half meters and in order to avoid concentrations of people, among others).</p> <p>Additionally, as a prevention measure, employers are exhorted to set '<i>home office</i>' regimes whenever possible and employees aged 65 or older are entitled not to work (up to</p>		
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		<p>population and the workers of the waste classification system, the collection of recyclable material circuits has been temporarily suspended and the containers for the reception of these materials have been temporarily removed from large surfaces.</p> <p>One of the issues related to household waste is the non-dissemination of Covid-19 contaminated waste. In this regard, the Municipality of Montevideo agreed with a representative organisation of the Civil Society on a protocol to be</p>	<p>and evaluation continue to be implemented, making it possible to establish water quality trends over time and space in the water body, estimating the impact of human activities on aquatic ecosystems and water quality and helping to establish the best strategies for controlling pollution.</p>	<p>Health and Local Governments.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health published a guide providing recommendations to public offices that can be used as reference for private sector. The guide includes as recommendations the training of workers in aspects related to the contingency plan prepared by each workplace and on information such as frequent symptoms, basic infection prevention measures such as social distancing, use of masks, hand washing, respiratory hygiene, ventilation, cleaning, disinfection of the premises, materials and devices for daily use, as well as organisational measures, prevention measures and</p>	<p>31 May 2020) and to be paid a subsidy by the pension authority.</p>		
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		<p>applied to those wastes that may be infected in order to avoid the spread of the virus through the garbage. This implies the recommendation to use three plastic bags, prior to such wastes being thrown in the places arranged for any household waste.</p> <p>An increase in the use of disposable plastic bags has also been confirmed as they are more aseptic, despite their cost for acquisition and the disincentive to use them imposed by Law No. 19,655.</p> <p>Recently, technicians from the National Directorate for the</p>		<p>personal hygiene and hygiene measures in the workplace.</p> <p>Local governments have also provided, among others, rules in reference to supermarkets, commercial premises, bars and restaurants</p> <p>In judicial matters, in view of the health emergency, a judicial fair had been declared and now activities are gradually being resumed. A computer application has been created with a web agenda, which is used for the organisation of the judicial offices. It aims to organise the flow of people and keep an individual record and trace of the attendance at the venues.</p>				
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		<p>Environment carried out a series of inspections of hospital waste management companies in Uruguay, with the aim of analysing national capacities, within the framework of the health emergency caused by Covid-19.</p> <p>The inspection showed that today, Uruguay has the capacity to adequately manage these wastes, with the procedures and treatment required for health and environmental care.</p>					
<p><u>Zambia</u></p> <p>Contributor:</p>	<p>World Health Organization (WHO) listed Zambia as one of the 13 African countries at high</p>	<p>Per the Minister of Health's statement on 16 April 2020, a presidential directive was issued to make the</p>	<p>Environmental Management Act</p> <p>Generally, the provisions of this piece of legislation</p>	<p>The Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) is part of the initiatives under the Covid-19 National</p>	<p>In this analysis, 'workers' safety is taken in two contexts; first, with reference to the sustenance of</p>	<p>Zambia Compulsory Standards Act No. 3 of 2017</p> <p>This Act creates the Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency and provides for its</p>	

<p>Pamela Towela Sambo</p>	<p>risk of importing the deadly Coronavirus. On 18 March, Zambia confirmed its first cases, involving a couple who had travelled to France. According to the Ministry of Health, by 15 May 2020, the number of confirmed cumulative infections in the country had risen to 668, with seven deaths.</p> <p>Covid-19 National Multi-Sectoral Contingency Response Plan By March 2020, the Government of the Republic of Zambia, had prepared the Covid-19 National multi Sectoral Contingency and</p>	<p>wearing of masks in public mandatory as part of increased Covid-19 prevention measures in Zambia. In addition to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), this increases the volume of waste that requires management. The enforcement of the Public Health Act, together with the provisions of Statutory Instruments No. 21 and 22,³⁰ is cardinal and directly related to environmental law enforcement. Other activities for achieving a sustained response include building resilience in the mining, tourism, agriculture and</p>	<p>and those of the Public Health Act and other subsidiary laws and policies are adequate in relation to all necessary environmental remediations and clean ups. There are many ways of ensuring remediation except the enforcement of legislation in Zambia generally is problematic. In particular, under section 105 of the Environmental Management Act, an environmental restoration order may be made where there is a discharge of a contaminant or pollutant into the environment in an amount, concentration or manner that constitutes a risk to</p>	<p>Multi-Sectoral Contingency Response Plan(NMRCP).</p> <p>Local authorities</p> <p>The Local Government, Environmental Management and Solid Waste Regulation and Management Acts mandate local authorities to be responsible for waste management. Section 7 (a) of the Local Government Act No. 2 of 2019 provides that ‘a local authority shall, in relation to public health— establish and maintain environmental health services.’ This is a relevant provision that needs to be enforced religiously in the period of the Covid-19</p>	<p>employees’ overall rights in the workplace and secondly, in terms of workplace safety, specific to possibility of contracting Covid-19, which also overlaps with the theme of waste management. In relation to the first consideration:</p> <p>J. Kayula, (2020) ‘Covid-19 and Labour Law: Zambia ‘Italian Labour Law e-Journal Special Issue 1, Vol. 13 (2020) Covid-19 and Labour Law. A Global Review ISSN 1561-8048, available at https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.1561-8048/10938</p>	<p>powers and functions, administration and maintenance of compulsory standards for the purpose of public safety and health, consumer protection and environmental protection, as well as matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.</p> <p>Zambia Bureau of Standards established pursuant to the provision of the Standards Act No. 4 of 2017. It is aimed at providing for standardisation and quality assurance of products and services through the setting of national standards and provision of conformity assessment services for products and services in the country.</p>	
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³⁰ See argument below on application of these Statutory Instruments

	<p>Response Plan (NMRCP), to be executed through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, Ministry of Health, Zambia National Public Health Institute and the Ministry of National Development Planning. The NMRCP will guide the preparedness and response mechanism to be undertaken in the context of the threat from the global outbreak of Covid-19. The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ), Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) estimates that 7.6 million</p>	<p>other sectors. This may lead to stress transfer on natural resources, depending on additional guidelines that may be introduced. The provision of energy to the manufacturing, mining, tourism and agriculture sectors is required in the short and long terms, in order to quicken recovery from the effects of Covid-19.³¹ According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):</p> <p>With the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic continuing to spread and its</p>	<p>human health or the environment. These orders are relevant in this era of the Covid-19 pandemic. An environmental restoration order may require the person on whom it is served to take any measures that will assist in reducing or eliminating the risk or harm and to take any measures to prevent the continuation or cause of pollution; restore land, prevent the commencement or continuation or cause of environmental hazard, cease to take any action which is causing or may contribute to causing pollution or an environmental hazard; remove or</p>	<p>outbreak especially in relation to sound and sustainable waste management.</p> <p>Ministry of Health The Ministry of Health is responsible, in conjunction with the local authorities for implementation of public health and environmental compliance to the extent specified in the legislation. Coordination is especially necessary in this era of the Covid-19 outbreak in order to prevent rapid transmission and spread of the disease.</p>	<p>The author argues that the country's response towards mitigating the effects of Covid-19 in the labour market have been half- hearted, fragmented and ineffective. This is largely due to the country's current unsustainable debt burden and unprecedented levels of public resource mismanagement. According to the author, 'these factors have left Zambia with no meaningful fiscal space to navigate the effects of Covid-19' in the labour market and therefore, the best interests of workers' safety during the</p>		
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³¹ CRP, 28-31

	<p>people in 43 districts are at risk of Covid-19 due to presence of main border crossing, location on major highways or transport corridors, population density, industrial activities and populations with pre-existing health conditions. Urgent response is needed to meet the needs and protect the most vulnerable people from direct public health and indirect impact of Covid-19 on the social and economic impact of the crisis. The overall objective of the NMCRP is to 'provide for a coordinated multi-sectoral</p>	<p>impacts upon human health and the economy intensifying day-by-day, governments are urged to treat waste management, including of medical, household and other hazardous waste, as an urgent and essential public service in order to minimise possible secondary impacts upon health and the environment.³²</p> <p>The Solid Waste Regulation and Management Act No. 20 of 2018 This legislation is purposed for the sustainable regulation and management of solid waste and mandates local</p>	<p>alleviate any injury to land or the environment or to the amenities of the area; prevent damage to the land or the environment, remove any waste or refuse.</p> <p>Ministry of Health Healthcare Waste Policy</p> <p>According to the Ministry of Health National Healthcare Waste Management (HCWM) Plan 2019 to 2024, Zambia has adopted HCWM recommendations from different resources such as the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), WHO, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and</p>		<p>pandemic are at best inadequate.</p> <p>Further, the author points out that government has urged employers to send 'non-essential service' workers on annual paid leave or work from home, but there are no guidelines for determining what constitutes 'essential and non-essential services' offered by an employee. This is important because 'essential service' has a legal meaning under the Industrial and Labour Relations Act, different from the assigned Covid-19 approach that government has proffered. This ambiguity might</p>		
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³² <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/waste-management-essential-public-service-fight-beat-Covid-19>

	<p>preparedness and response mechanism to be undertaken in the context of the threat from the global outbreak of Covid-19.’²⁷ The NMRCRP has four specific objectives, one of which is directly relevant to the enforcement of environmental laws and policies - the preservation of socio-economic stability including protection of the most vulnerable in society.²⁸</p> <p>The NMCRP also outlines potential health and non – health impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in Zambia, of which two non-health</p>	<p>authorities to carry out sustainable waste management. Its relevant provisions include Section 3, to the effect that this Act does not apply to hazardous waste, e-waste and healthcare waste or waste regulated under the Environmental Management Act, 2011.</p> <p>Healthcare waste is defined as that generated from pathological and pharmaceutical activities or matter and other solid waste generated by healthcare establishments, healthcare research facilities and healthcare</p>	<p><i>Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)</i>. This has contributed to the development of the HCWM guidelines in line with the EMA No.12 of 2011 by the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) in collaboration with Ministry of Health.</p>		<p>lend the directive to abuse as there is no yardstick to arrest arbitrariness in interpretation. This analysis is relevant in relation to the services being offered during the Covid-19 pandemic- in environmental agencies and other entities that are providing environment-relevant services such as local authorities.</p> <p>The author concludes that the Zambian government ‘has not offered any effective response/solution to the labour market aimed at ameliorating the current debilitating</p>		
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²⁷ Covid-19 CRP 8

²⁸ Specific objective 1.2.2. (d) Covid-19 CRP 8

	<p>impacts are related to the enforcement of environmental laws and policies in Zambia:</p> <p>(a) Diversion of resources from routine services to response to Covid-19;</p> <p>(b) Reduced tourist visits to national parks in the affected areas due to suspension</p>	<p>laboratories, including waste generated in the course of healthcare undertaken in the home. With the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic there is use of facemasks and gloves in households such that the ensuing waste needs to be managed as healthcare waste. The legislation does not address this, in view of the wider health implications. Against this background, there is need to sensitise the general public on how to dispose-off face masks after use as the country implements mandatory wearing of masks in public places. There has</p>			<p>conditions that employers and employees are grappling with in the uncharacteristically octane environment.’ The non - availability of stimulus packages as guided by the International Labour Organisation to aid the most hit sectors such as the hospitality industry and institutions of learning, coupled with government ‘allowing employers to declare employees redundant without notice and to further nullify the lump sum payments’ all point to lack of protection for the safety of the worker in the employment relationship during the Covid-19</p>		
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	<p>ded flights; (c) Reduced foreign exchange due to low earnings from non-traditional exports; (d) Disruption in the provision of socio-economic services.²⁹</p>	<p>been inadequate sensitisation on how to manage solid waste including masks prior to the Covid-19 pandemic despite the country having the waste management strategy. It has been observed that 'failure to have the general public dispose-off certain types of masks appropriately may result in an increase of already existing burden of environmental degradation especially that most masks are non-decomposable.'³³</p>			<p>pandemic in Zambia.</p> <p>In terms of workers' physical safety from contracting Covid-19 in the workplace, there has been a government directive for employers to provide appropriate PPE for workers required to provide essential services. In the medical field, there has been an outcry by essential health workers over the inadequacy of PPE provided to them, while government insists that the supply of PPE for essential healthcare workers is adequate. See: https://diggers.news/local/2020/03/31/provide-protective-</p>		
	Public Health Act, chapter 295 of the laws of Zambia	The Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011					

²⁹ Non-Health Impacts 2.2.2 Covid-19 13

³³ <https://www.phoenixfm.co.zm/news/govt-urged-to-sensitise-public-on-disposing-of-used-face-masks>

	<p>The provisions of the Public Health Act were invoked just before the country had recorded its first cases of infection. The Act is purposed for the prevention and suppression of diseases and for general regulation of public health and all matters incidental thereto. Section 9 (2) (a) of the Public Health Act mandates the responsible Minister to declare any infectious disease as a notifiable one and invoke necessary measures under the law. By virtue of these powers, the Minister promulgated two Statutory Instruments (SIs); SI. Nos. 21 and 22</p>	<p>This Act also makes provision for waste management to augment other legislation.</p>			<p>clothing-to-all-health-workers-fighting-Covid-19-mqhz-urges-govt</p> <p>https://diggers.news/local/2020/04/23/number-of-health-staff-contracting-coronavirus-is-worrying-zma</p> <p>In addition, section 93 (1) of the Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019 provides that an employer ‘shall ensure that an employee receives an adequate supply of water and sanitation’ facilities at the undertaking, failing which the employer may be prosecuted, fined and or imprisoned or both. This provision is especially important during the Covid-19 as it is for</p>		
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	<p>of 2020. Sl. No. 21 declares the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) as a notifiable, infectious disease, while Sl. No. 22 sets out measures aimed at controlling the spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>Disaster Management Act</p> <p>Constitution</p>				<p>environmental wellbeing and public health.</p>		
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