Companies and Intellectual Property Commission

a member of the dti group

GUIDANCE NOTE

ESSENTIAL SERVICES CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY CIPC

It has come to our attention that there exists a lot of confusion in the marketplace in relation to the essential services certificate issued by CIPC via the online platform www.bizportal.gov.za.

It is important to note that the CIPC essential services certificate DOES NOT constitute a permit or permission to provide essential services or goods. The Disaster Management Act, 2002 (the Act) and the Regulations issued in terms of Section 27(2) of the Act prescribes the essential services allowed in terms of alert level 4.

Any entity which falls within descriptions listed in Table 1 Alert Level 4 as well as Annexure B, C and D of the above mentioned legislation, may operate or trade in terms of the requirements of the Act and its Regulations.

Companies, Close Corporations and Co-Operatives may register on www.bizportal.gov.za and apply for a CIPC essential services certificate. This option is non-compulsory and any certificate obtained from the CIPC acts as supporting documentation in the form of identification of an entity.

All members of the public and all business are urged to familiarize themselves with the content of the Disaster Management Act Regulations published in the Government Gazette on 29 April 2020. CIPC cannot provide any guidance as to whether an industry is allowed or prohibited to trade during the current alert level 4. If any uncertainty still exists on whether an enterprise / entity qualifies as an essential service or provider of essential goods, a query may be lodged via lockdownexemptions@thedtic.gov.za

Once an entity acquired a certificate from CIPC, such remains valid until the Regulations in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 is amended, or if revoked by the CIPC. There is no need to obtain a renewed certificate, unless the details contained thereon has changed, such as the information of the responsible person.

Adv. Rory Voller
Commissioner
Date : 11/5/20