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International Air Services (COVID -19 Restrictions on the Movement of Air Travel) Regulations

Regulations designed to provide for the prohibition of embarkation and disembarkation of foreign nationals at international airports designated as ports of entry have been drawn up. The Department of Transport published the International Air Services (COVID -19 Restrictions on the Movement of Air Travel) Regulations of 2020 in Government Gazette 43105.

The regulations, drafted in terms of the International Air Services Act, also aim to improve hygiene control and disinfection facilities at international airports, implement a tracking, tracing and monitoring system at airports and reporting and the banning of mass gatherings in and around airports.

The regulations apply to all foreign nationals and travellers from high and medium risk countries as well as South African citizens and permanent residents.

The regulations focus on embarkation and disembarkation of foreign nationals at international airports designated as ports of entry; charter operators; countries impacted by South Africa's travel restrictions; provision of improved access and hygiene, disinfection control on international airports designated as ports of entry; oversight responsibilities by South African Civil Aviation Authority and the prohibition of mass gatherings in airport precinct.

The notice also contains ministerial orders instructing the Airports Company South Africa SOC Limited, Air Traffic and Navigation Services and the South African Civil Aviation Authority to comply with the regulations until further notice.

In Gazette 43103, the department has also published National Ports Act (COVID-19 Restrictions on the Movement of Persons and Crew) Regulations of 2020.

They were drawn up in terms of the National Ports Act. The regulations provide for the prohibition of embarkation and disembarkation of certain persons at South African seaports; improved hygiene control and sterilization facilities on ships, sea ports, port facilities operated by licensed operator, off-shore cargo handling facility, port repair facilities, provider of port

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services, port terminals, terminal operations and in licensed port operations; implementation of a tracking, tracing and monitoring system at seaports; reporting; and prohibition of holding of mass gatherings of more than 100 people in seaports.

The regulations focus on the embarkation and disembarkation of persons at a South African seaport; provision of improved access and hygiene, sterilization control on ships, seaports and in licensed seaport operations; implementation of a reporting, tracking, tracing and monitoring system at ports and prohibition of holding of mass gatherings in ports.