

Costa Rica – Impact on operating permits and marketing authorizations due to COVID-19

April 7, 2020

In the context of the emergency declared by the Republic of Costa Rica Government, the Ministry of Health of Costa Rica has issued several directives related to Operation permits and marketing authorizations.

Directive DM-RM-0784-2020 issued on March 23, 2020, extends until September 30, the validity of operating health permits, authorization certificates, licenses, and authorizations that expire between March 23rd and September 30th. Additionally, it states that new applications and certifications must be processed by email.

Regarding the registration, renewal, and post-registration changes of products of sanitary interest for human use on the "REGISTRELO" digital platform, Directive DM-RM-0838-2020 issued on April 1, 2020, extends the validity of these records for six months.

Although the deadlines for dealing with procedures are maintained under applicable legislation, for post-registration procedures, this Directive allows requesting a three months extension to fulfill requirements related to documents issued by foreign regulatory authorities, and that require apostille or legalization.

Applications for the first time of sanitary interest products of foreign origin submitted after April 1, must include all the information and documents mandated by law, but now, certifications of websites are accepted as long as a Notary follows some rules. In the case of national products, all requirements must be met, with no exception.