

Level 4: What micro and small business traders need to know

Knysna Deputy Executive Mayor, Aubrey Tsengwa welcomed the directive outlining what small and micro-businesses are allowed to sell during Level 4 in the current lockdown as published by Minister of Small Business Khumbudzo Ntshavheni.

According to these regulations the following business may operate:

- Small scale bakeries and confectioneries;
- Small scale hardware stores;
- Informal restaurants and shisanyamas for home deliveries only;
- Trades, herein referred to as artisanry businesses, necessary for rendering emergency repair work, including plumbers, electricians, locksmiths, glaziers, roof repair work, tow trucks, vehicle recovery and automobile repairs (motor mechanics), including small -scale vehicle services centres/ workshops, small -scale motor body repair shops, and fitment centres;
- Sole traders within the clothing and textiles and confectionery business;
- Cooperatives operating under permitted businesses in line with the regulations.

Tsengwa explained that all formal and informal small businesses that are allowed to reopen under the Minister's directives must comply with the relevant health and safety measures issued by the Department of Health. It is a matter of importance that all employees and customers at formal and informal small businesses will not be allowed to enter the premises without wearing a cloth face mask.

All formal and informal small businesses are encouraged to provide transport for their employees during this national state of disaster.

"Small businesses that are not mentioned in the existing list of permitted businesses or the list above must apply to the Knysna Municipal travelpermits@knysna.gov.za for permits to operate during level 4 lockdown," said Tsengwa.

Restrictions and requirements

The new regulations also imposed a number of restrictions on small businesses that may now reopen under the current COVID-19 alert level.

Small-scale bakeries and confectionaries must not sell products or goods prohibited by the regulations, and hardware stores are not allowed to sell sub-standard goods.

Although informal and micro-restaurants may sell cooked food they may only do so if orders are placed telephonically or online and the food then gets delivered.

Small-scale clothing stores and sole traders are also explicitly prohibited from allowing customers to try on personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and masks before they are purchased.

These traders may also not accept any returns for gloves, masks, and other PPE.

Vehicle service centres and workshops which do not possess a business licence or trading permit must apply for these credentials before they are allowed to reopen during the lockdown.

In closing Tsengwa encouraged residents who were uncertain of the regulations to read the directions issued in terms of regulation 4(9) of the regulations made under section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No.57 of 2002): Measures to Prevent and Combat the Spread of Covid-19. "To assist the Greater Knysna businesses, we have published the Government Gazette Vol. 659 12 May Regulation Gazette No. 11109, which sets out the latest regulations pertaining to micro and small business, on our website.

Please feel free to contact Petrus van Niekerk in our Economic Development Department at [pvanniekerk@knysna.gov.za](mailto:pvaniekerk@knysna.gov.za) for information pertaining to business regulations and safe reopening of permitted businesses," concluded Tsengwa.

Businesses are also encouraged to view the business support section of the Knysna Municipality website for updated information on various business relief support schemes at <https://www.knysna.gov.za/news/covid-19-corona-virus/>

Read the full 12 May Regulation Gazette No. 11109 gazette on <https://www.knysna.gov.za/news/covid-19-corona-virus/>

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