



## Freeport Communiqué (Lockdown in view of Covid-19)



The Economic Development Board (EDB) takes cognizance of the Curfew Order dated 22 March 2020 (General Notice No.512 of 2020) issued by the Government of Mauritius, aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Mauritius. The Curfew Order, which is effective since 23 March 2020 has been extended till 15 April 2020 until further notice.

Given the exceptional situation, the EDB wishes to inform all Freeport Developers (Third Party & Private) and Freeport operators that the processing of applications for renewal of Freeport Certificate and Storage permit will be postponed during the lockdown period.

The following arrangements have been made by the EDB to Freeport companies:

1. All applicants (Third Party & Private Freeport Developers and Freeport operators) who have submitted their applications for renewal of Freeport Certificate via the Freeport Licensing System (<http://fls.edbmauritius.org>) and whose Freeport Certificate has expired or is about to expire during the imposed curfew will be given an automatic temporary extension as from the expiry date that will be valid until 15 days after the lockdown period in Mauritius.
2. All applicants (Third Party Freeport Developers) who have submitted their applications for renewal of Storage permit via the Freeport Licensing System (<http://fls.edbmauritius.org>) and whose storage permit has expired or is about to expire during the imposed curfew will be given an automatic temporary extension as from the expiry date that will be valid until 15 days after the lockdown period in Mauritius.

Once the curfew is lifted, applicants will be given 15 days prior to renew its Freeport Certificate and storage permits via the Freeport Licensing System (<http://fls.edbmauritius.org>).

3. The EDB will maintain the processing of all applications of Freeport containers eligible to preferential port handling charges at import and export during the lockdown via the Freeport Licensing System (<http://fls.edbmauritius.org>).
4. The EDB Freeport Team will assist Freeport Developers (Third Party & Private) and Freeport operators as much as possible during the lockdown through [freeport@edbmauritius.org](mailto:freeport@edbmauritius.org).
5. The work access permit will be issued to some employees to attend duty on-site during confinement period in view of Covid-19 that are necessary for the proper functioning of the Country during this period, which include inter alia Port & Airport related activities, Freight Forwarding and other Logistic Activities.

The application form can be downloaded on the following websites:

- a) [police.govmu.org](http://police.govmu.org)
- b) [pmo.govmu.org](http://pmo.govmu.org)
- c) [www.businessmauritius.org](http://www.businessmauritius.org)
- d) [www.mcci.org](http://www.mcci.org)
- e) [www.mexamauritius.org](http://www.mexamauritius.org)

Applications should be submitted on [workaccesspass@govmu.org](mailto:workaccesspass@govmu.org)

6. The MRA Customs (Freeport Team) will provide support and assistance to Freeport Developers (Third Party & Private) and Freeport operators and attend to issues which are deemed important/relevant during the lockdown through emails: [Nageeb.Dookhee@mra.mu](mailto:Nageeb.Dookhee@mra.mu); [Ravinder.Dhoowooah@mra.mu](mailto:Ravinder.Dhoowooah@mra.mu); [sam.rammaya@mra.mu](mailto:sam.rammaya@mra.mu)
7. Companies that have not been able to take delivery of their containers with IMPORT status during the confinement period shall after delivery make a request for refund of storage charges addressed to the Finance Manager, Cargo Handling Corporation (CHCL) upon submission of documents as may be prescribed by CHCL. Documents to be submitted through: [registry@chcltd.intnet.mu](mailto:registry@chcltd.intnet.mu); [agujadhur@chcltd.intnet](mailto:agujadhur@chcltd.intnet) ; [spaddia@chcltd.intnet.mu](mailto:spaddia@chcltd.intnet.mu)

The EDB will continue to assess the situation during the confinement period and Freeport Developers (Third Party & Private) and Freeport operators will be kept informed of any developments accordingly.