

Joint mapping of national responses to Covid-19

The packaging sector and national lists of essential activities

Austria	Packaging is classified as part of the crucial supply chain.
Belgium	<p>Packaging is classified as a key industry</p> <p>Official legislation: https://economie.fgov.be/sites/default/files/Files/Entreprises/AM-MB-20200318-covid-19.pdf (French/Dutch)</p> <p>Suppliers of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) have been instructed by the government to only deliver to medical products/disinfectant producers, creating a shortage for the printed packaging industry.</p>
Bulgaria	
Croatia	
Cyprus	
Czechia	<p>The packaging industry/supplies of packaging products is/are NOT listed on the list of Czech Republic critical infrastructure. In the valid decree of the Czech Government No. 432/2010 Sb. on elements of critical infrastructure, the "Food industry" is listed with five "basic types of foodstuffs": mill products (i.e. flour), sugar, bakery products, milk and dairy products, meat and meat products.</p> <p>No further details are indicated on supplies to maintain production incl. packaging. The CZ Food Federation and the CZ Union of Industry are aware of this and are raising this issue with the authorities (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry - who are part of the Government crisis team). Currently, the CZ Government wants to preserve industrial production, does not divide production in practice between "essential" and "non essential".</p> <p>All 4 Czech borders with Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovakia are open to international cargo traffic both ways (export/import) at designated border crossings, otherwise the borders are closed for personal traffic with exceptions (repatriation). We did not find specific "green lanes" info, since the border crossing as such is dedicated almost exclusively to cargo traffic.</p>
Denmark	<p>Packaging is classified as a key industry.</p> <p>Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry</p>

Estonia	Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry.
Finland	Sectors identified as critical to the functioning of society have been listed by each administrative branch in Finland. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment has listed “packaging industries” as a function critical to security of supply. National Emergency Supply Agency is coordinating the more detailed action plans in food and pharma value chains.
France	<p>Packaging is recognised as an essential activity. Packaging companies need to provide a “Plan de continuation” to keep production going. (waiting for official documents).</p> <p><i>During questions to the government on Thursday March 19, 2020, Edouard Philippe, in response to a question from Valérie Rabault (Member of Parliament, President of the Socialists and related groups), said: “An example which may seem trivial but which is important. When a factory that produces paper or cardboard, packaging stops: we say packaging is not strategic for the country. Except that, when you no longer have this packaging plant, you may find yourself in a situation where you will not be able to prepare the way food, masks, or medicines are distributed. And so you find yourself in a material situation which is extremely dangerous. In other words, we must keep in the country, even in a period of confinement, the minimum of economic activity necessary for the life of the country and necessary for the preparation of the rebound.”</i></p> <p><i>Intervention can be seen on: https://youtu.be/Awno4RTWEw4</i></p>
Germany	<p>The German government has recognized the food packaging industry as essential.</p> <p>Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry.</p>
Greece	
Hungary	
Ireland	<p>Ireland announced stricter measures that came fully into force as of Sunday 29 March. Until 12 April only business listed in essential service providers list can operate. The production of paper is included as well as “products necessary for the supply chain of essential services”, but packaging is not specifically mentioned in the list of essential manufacturing. As packaging is an essential part of the supply chain for food and some of the others essential services, the continuity of this sector should be guaranteed.</p> <p>See full list essential manufacturing below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the manufacture of food and beverage products • the manufacture of prepared animal feeds • the manufacture of work-wear apparel or footwear • the manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard and wood • the printing and reproduction of newspapers and other media services • the manufacturing of coke and refined petroleum products • the manufacturing of alumina; chemicals and chemical products • the manufacture of pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations • the manufacture of products necessary for the supply chain of essential services; computer, electronic and optical products including semi-conductors; electrical equipment,

	machinery and other equipment (including agricultural and forestry machinery); medical devices; and medical and dental equipment and supplies
Italy	<p>Packaging activities are included in an updated list of the activities considered essential and which, therefore, may remain open (source: Decree of the President of Ministers of 22 March 2020).</p> <p>Packaging activities in general “Attivita’ di imballaggio e confezionamento conto terzi” are included in the list. This would seem to cover all packaging materials (including glass packaging).</p>
Latvia	Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry.
Lithuania	
Luxembourg	
Malta	
Netherlands	The issue has been discussed during a meeting of the Dutch food and drink federation with the Government (23/2) Packaging is seen as being part of the broader food supply chain: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/veelgestelde-vragen-over-coronavirus-en-kinderopvang/cruciale-beroepen (Dutch)
Poland	
Portugal	
Romania	
Slovenia	
Slovakia	Packaging is classified as part of the crucial supply chain in Slovakia. The Crisis Committee of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture for COVID- 19 has officially validated that the transport of food packaging may be referred to as the transport of food with the preferred right to cross the borders.
Spain	Despite what was announced in an earlier draft , packaging is not specifically mentioned in the official list of essential activities published on 29 March (https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/29/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-4166.pdf) and valid until 9 April.

	However, packaging could still fall under products necessary for the supply of essential services. It would seem that, being an essential part of the supply chain for food and some of the others essential services, the continuity of production for this sector should be guaranteed.
Sweden	
UK	<p>The essential role of packaging activities is acknowledged.</p> <p>Defra statement "we agree that that the guidance as issued can be correctly interpreted as including the production of packaging for those supplies mentioned in the guidance".</p> <p>Shortages and price increases of essential chemicals (synthetic ethyl alcohol and isopropanol) reported, disrupting the supply for the printed packaging industry.</p> <p>1.The UK Government has accepted that packaging has 'key workers' insofar as it relates to key sectors (e.g. food & drink, medicines, health etc). That applies automatically in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Scotland has delegated decisions to local authorities on defining 'key workers'.</p> <p>2.The routes between the UK and the EU remain open.</p>
Switzerland	<p>With regard to the national economic supply of essential goods and services, companies that are indispensable for the supply of the country can submit an application to the Federal Office for National Economic Supply (<i>Bundesamt für wirtschaftliche Landesversorgung BWL</i>) to have the supply relevance of their company confirmed. A confirmation is issued for individual companies, but not for entire industries or associations.</p> <p>Collection points (unstaffed) are open more or less (federalism) throughout the country. Scrap dealers depend on export to Italy and Germany mainly. Large scrap dealers offer to still collect metals from municipalities although they are (with exceptions) not able to export them.</p> <p>Sources (German): https://www.bwl.admin.ch/bwl/de/home/themen/coronavirus/coronavirus_massnahmen_der_wl.html https://www.svi-verpackung.ch/de/Newsmeldung?newsid=261</p>
Norway	Classified packaging as a key industry.

Mobility measures implemented or announced by Member States (list on Member States' restrictions to transport, compiled and updated by the European Commission)

https://ec.europa.eu/transport/coronavirus-response_en