



## COVID-19: Ensuring smooth supply of food products

In light of the 21-day lockdown announced due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has issued guidelines for State authorities not to obstruct operations/call for closure of food processing units.

### Here's what you need to know

#### Food processing companies



- Allowed to keep manufacturing facilities open.
- Must ensure the strictest safety and hygiene standards.
- Distribution and sales channels and food delivery services are exempt from Section 144.

#### Groceries and pharmaceuticals



Allowed to stock, sell, operate to ensure no panic-buying.

#### Workers and operators



- Those working in the retail outlets and manufacturing units can travel to and from work.
- Adherence to safety norms is necessary.

#### Transport vehicles



The carriers of raw materials to and from food processing units will be given permission in consultation with the local administration.

#### Inter-state movement of goods



A process to be put in place to ensure uninterrupted supplies, specifically for e-commerce, food processing, delivery boys and goods trucks.

Source: DPIIT Secretary's letter to Chief Secretaries of all states dated 23 March, 2020.

Availability of raw materials, packaging materials, movement of trucks carrying them, functioning of their warehouses and cold storages and ability of workers to come and work in the factories and warehouses is required for maintaining food supply chain for the general population. The District Collectors, Police and Transport officials have been instructed to enable smooth and continued functioning of the same.

Source: Letter from Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries dated 26 March, 2020

In these trying times, a company must ensure safety of the workers and also the highest standards of hygiene while processing and delivering food products.

**Grant Thornton's Public Sector team can help you renew your strategies to sustain in these challenging times. For more details, reach out to: [Chirag Jain](#) | M: +91 97114 73031**

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