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COVID - 19

Eighth edition

Amendments Regarding the Opening of the Borders of Georgia

- ▶ On 9 July 2020, Ordinance No. 1158 of the Government of Georgia was published on the website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ From 9 July 2020, 00:00, except for citizens of Georgia and members of their families, citizens of the following countries and persons with the right of permanent residence may enter Georgia by air:
 - Federal Republic of Germany.
 - French Republic.
 - Republic of Latvia.
 - Republic of Lithuania.
 - Republic of Estonia.
 - Kingdom of Spain.
 - Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
 - Kingdom of the Netherlands.
 - Republic of Poland.
 - Portuguese Republic
 - Romania.
 - Greece.
 - Kingdom of Sweden.
 - Republic of Croatia.
 - Italian Republic.
 - Republic of Cyprus.
 - Republic of Slovenia.
 - Republic of Iceland.
- ▶ Citizens of Federal Republic of Germany, French Republic, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania and Republic of Estonia and persons with the right of permanent residence are not subject to isolation/quarantine when leaving these countries and upon entering Georgia, unless:
 - In a special electronic form, filled in before crossing the state border, during the last 14 days the trips to any country except Germany, France, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are recorded.

- Thermal screening at border checkpoints will detect temperature above 37 degrees, and a PCR test will confirm the presence of coronavirus.
- ▶ Given the principle of reciprocity and the epidemiological situation, the list of countries is subject to periodic review.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 09/07/2020.

Restrictions on Specific Direct International Scheduled Flights Have Been Removed

- ▶ On 10 July 2020, Ordinance No. 433 of the Government of Georgia was published on the website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ Since 13 July 2020 the restriction on the suspension of direct international scheduled flights does not apply to those scheduled direct flights between Tbilisi Shota Rustaveli International Airport (ICAO code UGTB) and the following airports:
- Munich (ICAO code EDDM).
 - Paris (ICAO code LFPG).
 - Riga (ICAO code EVRA).
- ▶ The Ordinance became effective upon its publication.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 10/07/2020.

Upon Entering Georgia, Foreign Visitors Arriving to Carry Out Business and/or Labor Activities Are Not Subject to Isolation

- ▶ On 8 July 2020, Ordinance No. 418 of the Government of Georgia was published on the website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ According to the Ordinance, upon entering Georgia, foreign visitors arriving for business and/or labor activities are not subject to isolation/quarantine.
- ▶ In addition, the Ordinance No. 322 envisages the rules on entering Georgia for delegations present in Georgia for official visits as well as the members of the Government of Georgia and Presidential delegations.
- ▶ Foreign visitors entering for business and/or labor activities will be allowed on the territory of Georgia in accordance with the rules established by the Order on the Rule of Filling in the Application and Obtaining Consent in the Electronic Program for the implementation of Business/Labor Activities in Georgia by foreign visitors.
- ▶ The application may be filled out in the electronic program through website - www.stopcov.ge.
- ▶ Upon entering Georgia, foreign visitor arriving for business and/or labor activities is obliged to get PCR test at the own expense. In addition, the said person is required to get a PCR test every 72 hours for the next 14 days at the own expense.
- ▶ The above-said rules provided by the Ordinance do not apply to citizens of countries or persons with the right of permanent residence with whom Georgia has opened its borders without testing and/or quarantine.
- ▶ The Ordinance became effective upon its publication.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 08/07/2020.

Provisional Rules for the Departure of a Citizen of Georgia from the Territory of Georgia to Enter the Republic of Turkey for Labor Activity Have Been Approved

- ▶ On 3 August 2020, the Ordinance No. 1421 of the Government of Georgia was published on the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ In order to enter the Republic of Turkey for labor activity, departure from the territory of Georgia is allowed for a citizen of Georgia who holds a three-month notarized invitation, issued by a citizen of the Republic of Turkey or a legal entity registered in the same country.
- ▶ The citizen of Georgia is obliged to fill in an application through a special electronic program, in which he/she must indicate his/her identification data. An invitation and its notarized translation in Georgian shall be attached to the application.
- ▶ The working group created by the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara will check the application and the attached documents.
- ▶ The results of the review of the documents will be notified to the applicant within 7 calendar days after filling in the application.
- ▶ In case of compliance of the application with the requirements defined by the Ordinance, the personal data of the citizen of Georgia, willing to enter the Republic of Turkey shall be provided to the relevant border checkpoint.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 03/08/2020.

Foreigners or Stateless Persons are Entitled to Stay in Georgia until 31 December 2020

- ▶ On 5 August 2020, Ordinance No. 1425 of the Government of Georgia was published on the website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ A foreigner or stateless person who was legally present on the territory of Georgia by 14 March 2020 and could not leave Georgia before the expiration of the legal stay, is entitled to remain on the territory of Georgia until 31 December 2020. A foreigner or a stateless person has such entitlement if presence on the territory of Georgia is caused by the following circumstances:
 - If the country of citizenship of the person was included in the high risk zone for the relevant period.
 - If the border crossing restriction is imposed by the respective state.
 - If a person is in a hospital, quarantined or self-isolated due to a health condition.
 - If a person was unable to leave the country within the stipulated time due to canceled flights.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 05/08/2020.

Amendments Regarding Performance of Cultural Events and Educational Process Management

- ▶ On 6, 15, 22 and 23 July 2020, Ordinance 410, 414, 450 და 456 of the Government of Georgia were published on the official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.

- ▶ Organizing/holding sports, cultural and entertainment events is a prohibited economic activity. However, performance of cultural events is permitted only remotely.
- ▶ Prohibition of organizing/holding sports, cultural and entertainment events does not apply to museum activities and indoor rehearsals, as well as outdoor sports, cultural events, entertainment activities and the operation of amusement parks/attractions.
- ▶ According to the Ordinance, all types of mass sports events are prohibited, including competitions, training/gathering process in closed spaces. Also, all types of training, seminars and/or conferences related to the topic of sports are prohibited, except for distance form.
- ▶ According to the Ordinance, since 20 July 2020, it is restricted to gather more than 10 persons in an enclosed space in connection with social events established in the society (e.g., wedding, any anniversary, etc.).
- ▶ Since 20 July 2020, gathering in the open space of more than 10 persons related to social events established in the society (wedding, any anniversary, etc.) is allowed only in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs (hereinafter "Ministry of Health").
- ▶ Since 6 July 2020, the activities of vocational and special vocational education institutions are permitted based on a positive conclusion issued as a result of an inspection by the Ministry of Health or other relevant state authority provided by law.
- ▶ Since 7 July 2020, the activity of the subjects carrying out sports and health activeness/procedure is permitted based on a positive conclusion issued as a result of the inspection by the Ministry of Health or other relevant authority provided by law.
- ▶ Ordinance No. 410 of the Government of Georgia became effective on 6 July 2020.
- ▶ Ordinance No. 414 of the Government of Georgia became effective on 7 July 2020.
- ▶ Ordinance No. 450 of the Government of Georgia became effective on 20 July 2020.
- ▶ Ordinance No. 456 of the Government of Georgia became effective on 22 July 2020.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 03/07/2020, 06/07/2020, 15/07/2020; 20/07/2020; 23/07/2020.

Rules for wearing face masks were approved

- ▶ On 15 June 2020, the Ordinance No. 368 on the Approval of the Rule for Wearing Face Masks of the Government of Georgia was published on official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ The rule establishes the procedure and conditions for wearing face masks during the pandemic and/or epidemic in closed public spaces, as well as in public transport (including the metro) and taxis (category M1).
- ▶ The use of face masks is essential in closed public spaces, in particular:
 - In the entrance of public and private institutions.
 - During meetings/gatherings when two meters of social distance may not be observed.
 - In public elevators.
 - In retail facilities.
 - In the general educational institutions, vocational educational institutions and higher educational institutions.
- ▶ According to the Ordinance, the use of face masks is essential in public transport, including the metro and taxis (category M1).

- ▶ The use of face masks is essential in cases provided by recommendations of the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.
- ▶ The Ordinance determines exceptional cases, when use of face masks is not mandatory.
- ▶ During meetings/gatherings in public and private institutions, a speaker is allowed not to use a face mask while speaking if he/she observes a social distance of two meters.
- ▶ Responsibility for violation of rule for wearing face masks is defined as follows:
 - Violation of the rule for wearing face masks during the pandemic and/or epidemic in closed public spaces shall carry a fine of GEL 20 for natural persons.
 - Admission of people who do not have face masks to the closed public space during the pandemic and/or epidemic shall carry a fine of GEL 500 for legal entity and/or individual entrepreneur which is owner of the closed public space.
 - Violation of the rule for wearing face masks during the pandemic and/or epidemic in public transport, including the metro, shall carry a fine of GEL 20 for the offender.
 - Violation of the rule for wearing face masks during the pandemic and/or epidemic in taxis (category M1) shall carry a fine of GEL 20 for the offender.
- ▶ The Ordinance became effective on 15 June 2020.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 15/06/2020.

The List of Priority Persons Subject to Mandatory Testing on COVID-19 and Testing Rules Have Been Approved

- ▶ On 15 June 2020, the Ordinance No. 975 of the Government of Georgia was published on official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ The Ordinance determined the list of priority persons subject to mandatory testing on COVID-19.
- ▶ The list of priority persons subject to mandatory testing on COVID-19 may change depending on the epidemiological situation.
- ▶ Within the framework of governmental programs, the services of those registered suppliers who carry out mandatory testing of individuals are financed.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 15/06/2020.

Rules for Epidemiological Control and Quarantine Regarding Movement of Sailors in Georgia Have Been Approved

- ▶ On 9 June 2020, the Order No. 1-1/211 of the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia was published on official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ The Order established rules for epidemiological control and quarantine regarding movement of sailors in Georgia (hereafter "Rules for the Movement of Sailors").
- ▶ The Order determined the conditions for change of the crew, terms for signing off a crew/a ship and signing on a ship, as well as transportation requirements.
- ▶ According to the Order, the shipowner shall submit a request for a change of a crew along with all supporting documents to the LEPL Maritime Transport Agency.

- ▶ The Order became effective on 15 June 2020.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 09/06/2020.

Rules and Procedures to Control and Monitor the Implementation of Recommendations at Workplaces Have Been Approved

- ▶ On 7 June 2020, Order No. 01-56/n of Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia was published on official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ Along with other issues, the Order established the monitoring directions, the activities of supervisory authority, rules for decision-making and conditions for monitoring the activities of person in order to detect violations.
- ▶ According to the Order, person shall register electronically in order to ascertain the compliance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.
- ▶ Registration can be passed on the official website of the Ministry of Health: www.moh.gov.ge.
- ▶ According to the Order, person shall fill in application regarding specifically those activities that are not permitted due to prevention of spread of COVID-19. Herewith, for the carrying out and/or launch of such activities an appropriate permit of the Government of Georgia is required.
- ▶ On the basis of the decision adopted as a result of inspection, a person can be given the right to carry out activities in accordance with the plan of the Government of Georgia to launch activities.
- ▶ According to the Order, different types of regulation apply at hotels. In particular, a positive opinion regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministry of Health is equivalent to a permit to carry out activities, whereas a negative opinion - to a refusal to carry out activities.
- ▶ According to the Order N01-79/n of the Minister of Health/dated 9 July 2020, the following recommendations were added to the Order N01-56:
 - General recommendations for outdoor / indoor pools, saunas and baths.
 - General recommendations for sports and health (fitness) facilities.
- ▶ The effect of the Order N01-56 applies to the relations arising from 23 May 2020.
- ▶ The Order N01-56 became effective upon its publication.
- ▶ The Order N01-79/n became effective upon its publication.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 07/06/2020.

The State Program of the Mortgage Support Mechanism Has Been Approved

- ▶ On 26 June 2020, Ordinance No. 387 of the Government of Georgia was published on the website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ The Ordinance approved the state program of the mortgage support mechanism (hereinafter referred to as "Mortgage Credit Program").
- ▶ The purpose of the Mortgage Credit Program is to overcome the economic difficulties posed by COVID-19 in the development sector and to improve access to real estate for individuals who are unable to fully or partially meet mortgage requirements.

- ▶ The Mortgage Credit Program is coordinated by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, whereas LEPL Enterprise Georgia is monitoring the Program.
- ▶ According to the Ordinance, under the Mortgage Credit Program credits are issued only in GEL.
- ▶ The Ordinance became effective upon its publication.

Source and date of publication: official website of the Legislative Herald of Georgia, 26/06/2020.

Law of Georgia on amendments to Law on State Property

- ▶ On 20 July 2020, the Law of Georgia on amendments to Law on State Property was published on official website of Legislative Herald of Georgia.
- ▶ According to the amendment, if due to a state of emergency it becomes complicated or impossible to transfer state property into ownership or transfer into use with management rights, the Government of Georgia may decide on measures applicable to the counterparty.
- ▶ According to the Law, the Government of Georgia may take a decision based on counterparty's request, upon the recommendation of the property administrator.
- ▶ According to the Law, the party to contractual relationship shall refer to the property administrator no later than 6 months after the end of the state of emergency, unless otherwise provided by Law.
- ▶ The law became effective upon its publication.

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