



30 April 2020

## **Disclaimer**

In the spirit of collaboration, Unilever is pleased to share its own practices and control measures as may be relevant to you during this unprecedented pandemic. However, it is impossible for Unilever to be aware of all of the local and particular risks and circumstances that you inevitably face in your day-to-day operations. For those reasons, this document is provided in good faith for general information purposes only and we make no representations, warranties or assurances as to its accuracy, completeness, effectiveness or validity. The information is provided without any express or implied warranty of any kind, including with respect to fitness for any particular purpose, and is subject to change. Unilever disclaims all losses or damages whatsoever (including, without limitation, damages for negligence, loss of profits, injury or death) arising out of the use of or non-use of the information provided. This information is not designed to, and does not, provide business or professional advice. By relying upon or taking decisions based the information provided, you do so entirely at your own risk. Accordingly, we encourage you to take independent professional and/or expert advice as you consider necessary.



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**Our actions to ensure the continuity of our supply chain and adequate response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Unilever remains focused on protecting our people, the communities we operate in and the continuity of our business. Though the current impact of the crisis across our Supply Chain has been limited, we must continue to take action and work together to address any potential risks and restrictions by sharing similar messages with the relevant authorities.

While we are trying to increase our production of essential products to respond to consumer demand across the globe, we could face some challenges if restrictive measures are taken in the context of the crisis.

Across the world, we have asked relevant authorities to adopt a common position that all Unilever products, whether in our Food, Beauty & Personal Care or Home Care divisions, are essential. Below is an example of the key advocacy asks that have been directed to European authorities.

If you are facing similar challenges in your geography, please reach out to your Procurement point of contact.



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## EXAMPLE

### Annex – key advocacy asks

We ask the European Commission and relevant national authorities to:

1. **Recognize our activities and those of our suppliers as ‘essential’ to ensure continuity by:**

- **Guaranteeing access to other member states:** Having our products, ingredients and packaging recognized as ‘essential’, would prevent any potential issue at borders. An harmonised EU approach would also prevent export bans to third EU countries.
- **Ensuring that our workers can continue their professional activity** safely through special dispensations and privileges. This notably includes some priority access to personal protection equipment, cross border movement of vital labour and **pay protection/support** for all workers. The EU and/or member states should propose guidelines for workers in essential sectors based on a model protocol for the recognition of the role of our employees. This would drive a greater degree of serenity for workers, their representatives and employers at local level.
- **Providing extra assurance that our factories can remain open:** Our factories and those of our suppliers are dependent on the availability of production materials and on the provision of essential services (e.g. guarding and security teams which also reduce demand on policing, laundry of working clothes in F&R factories). A recognition of our supply chain as essential would likely ensure priority access to critical materials and services.

2. **Ensure freight moves smoothly across borders by opening priority “green lanes” for trucks transporting our products and those of our key suppliers**

We ask the relevant national authorities to preserve the EU-wide operation of supply chains and ensure the functioning of the Single Market for goods by following the [recommendations](#) of the European Commission:

- All the relevant internal border-crossing points of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) should be “green lanes”;
- The “green lane” border crossings should be open to all freight vehicles carrying any type of goods and going through these “green lane” border crossings, including any checks and health screening of transport workers, should not exceed 15 minutes on internal land borders;
- All types of road access restrictions in place in member states’ territory (week-end bans, night bans, sectoral bans, etc.) must be suspended.
- Restrictions such as travel restrictions and mandatory quarantine of transport workers should be waived.
- Small and medium sized enterprises must have low level entry to any registration or approval system.



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- To reduce complexity and paperwork we encourage our drivers to use the standardized Template of Certificate for International Transport Workers (see last page of the [recommendations](#)) for all our drivers in Europe. We encourage you to use it to avoid any blockage at borders.

**Ingredients:** We bring any issue that arise at market level to the European Commission and to the relevant national authorities where we see potential risks to try and find solutions on a case-by-case basis.

**Packaging:** To ensure that packaging is prioritized we would encourage you to share [this letter](#) from our EU packaging association for any direct or indirect outreach at national level.

3. **Provide regulatory flexibility to prevent shortage of essential products in member states and accelerate permitting or lifting import/export bans**

Shortage of supply of materials can lead to changes in product composition which would slow down production if the labelling artwork needs to be adapted. We ask for temporary provisions to allow labelling deviations, that could take the form of a tracking list to be maintained by business operators of any of such deviations while always guaranteeing safety.

For disinfectant products the European Commission has notably published [a very important note](#) to provide member states with clarity and information on measures that can be used to permit the making available of disinfectant products. We ask national governments to follow such guidance to prevent shortage of our products and ask the Commission to extend such guidance to other essential product categories.