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## **Covid 19 Furniture Removal Sector Submission**

**To:** The Honorable Ebrahim Patel, MP  
Minister of Trade and Industry  
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The Honourable Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, MP  
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**From:** Dirk Smit – AMOSA Chairman

Date: 26 April 2020

**Re: Submission to South African National Government to request a controlled opening of The Furniture Removal Industry – Stage 4 Covid 19 Lockdown**

Dear Honourable Ministers,

I represent the Accredited Movers of South Africa which operates in the Furniture Removal Sector.

I refer to the National Ministerial briefing that took place on 25 April 2020. As an industry we would like to furnish the Ministerial Committee with our reasoning and commitment to participate in the gradual lockdown stages presented. Our association has had strict guidelines for quality control of minimum audited standards throughout our membership and have a proven track record of discipline and adherence to policy.

Our members mainly specialize in household Furniture Removals and high volumetric goods in our specialized vehicle types.

**The following special circumstances & needs have been identified by us which is currently impacting financially on livelihood and well-being of customers and employees.**

1. Prior to lockdown numerous clients were in transit to new homesteads. These families could not relocate into their new homes in time and were placed in storage. They are now without their furniture, clothing and personal belongings.
2. Various companies, like mining companies are transferring staff and expertise to where critical staff shortages occur. These transfers are essential to take place.
3. People retrenched or unemployed need to relocate to family or more affordable accommodation.
4. Families that have retired and need to relocate to their retirement homes or properties.
5. New home purchases or families having sold their properties prior to lockdown need to relocate and are paying rental and new bonds.
6. With the opening of the Deeds Office transfers of sold properties will commence with the buyer being able to move and occupy the property.
7. End of lease tenants with deposits paid for new rental are currently requiring relocation. Rental is being levied on both properties.
8. International shipments of household furniture are in receiving ports or nearby storage facilities. The non-delivery of these consignments is accruing demurrage costs which have a dire financial implication to the owner of the furniture.
9. The Furniture Removal Transport industry and associated services employs in excess of 8000 employees that desperately require an income.
10. Delivery of manufactured commercial furniture for household retailers need to start with delivery to clear warehouses.
11. Associated delivery of secondary essential commodities like mattresses, beds and institutional equipment & furniture are going to start manufacturing which is a large portion of the Furniture Removal Industry business.
12. Shipping warehouses are full and need to deliver shipments to ease congestion already taking place at SA Ports.

**Our proposal to address the current situation and to restart our industry in a structured manner is proposed as follows:**

1. That all members strictly adhere to a Covid 19 best practise safety requirement as per our drafted Workplace Control document.
2. That all operational members evaluate the urgency of the consignments and structure consignments accordingly.
3. That all members register with the CIPC registrar for essential services.

4. That all staff & crew are identifiable by official company documentation.
5. That all consignments are properly documented to show full details of consignment ownership and destination.
6. The business nature of furniture removal does not have a high social contact risk due to dedicated loading and drop off points.
7. A strict safety protocol with consignment management is achievable.
8. Social distancing is easily achieved due to the very nature of our operations. Staff screening and minimal contact with public is very manageable.
9. Consignee and consignor screening and safety management is achievable due to dedicated teams dedicated transporting of furniture and volume cargo.
10. Provincial border crossing would in many instances be required but once again dedicated staff, subject to safety protocol manages the drivers, crew from consignment from origin to destination.
11. All vehicles to carry the following:
  - a. Register of staff and identifiable documentation associated with every individual consignment for tracing purposes.
  - b. Applicable consignment notes or invoice stating details of origin, consignment description and destination.
  - c. Copy of CPIC registration document with company details
12. All staff to wear applicable PPE to combat any contamination as per protocol.
13. Social distancing to be part and parcel of the execution of all work done.
14. All Clients, consignees and consignors to be informed of all safety protocols whilst moving of goods is taking place to eliminate unnecessary contact.
15. All operational companies to ensure vehicles are sanitised regularly.
16. During the refuelling of vehicles staff will be instructed to adhere to Covid 19 best practice Health and Sanitising protocols.

As a dedicated interest group for Furniture Removals, we wish to take hands with our National Government. We wish to assist to flatten the Covid 19 pandemic curve and to minimise the financial losses and income of our loyal customers, employees and Transport Companies.

**We trust you will evaluate and respond favourably to our proposal of Stage 4 operations upliftment and proposed self-regulation.**

We will avail ourselves to answer & supply any clarity sought as we know first-hand how our specific industry functions and operates.

Yours sincerely

Dirk Smit – AMOSA Chairman