

Updates

Under the new restrictions exceptions for leaving home, forestry is included under public administration and defence

Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	engineering, technical testing activities and analysis, scientific research and development activities, regulation, inspection and certification services, necessary to support essential services
Rental and Leasing Activities	rental and lease of cars, light motor vehicles and trucks, necessary to support the provision of essential services.
Administrative and Support Services	where necessary to support other essential services: employment placement and human resources associated with the recruitment and deployment of workers; security activities to assist in the delivery of essential services and the securing of premises closed to the public; cleaning of buildings and industrial cleaning activities; business support activities which are necessary to support essential services included on this list; payroll and payment services necessary for the operation of businesses; data processing, hosting and related activities.
Public Administration and Defence	public administration activities necessary to support essential services and provision of social protection benefits (including Civil Service and Local Government); An Garda Siochana, Garda Staff and the Garda Reserve; public order, safety, fire service and ambulance activities; the Defence Forces; emergency call answering service; to ensure administration of justice; Prison services and Child Dentation services; cyber-security; regulatory processes and certification required to ensure supply chains, food, medicine and general process safety; operation of botanical gardens, parks, forests and nature reserves; funeral services; religious personnel; office-holders and public representatives

The Government's Covid 19 Action Plan has designated forestry operations and timber supply chain and wood manufacturing as an essential business. As such key supply chain operations (Harvesting, Haulage & Roding) and essential forest operations (Planting, Cultivation and Maintenance) will continue with certain restrictions.

Contractors continuing to work during this period must adhere to the following:

- Travel separately to work, unless they are the same household members
- All operatives work at least 2 meters apart at all times.
- Breaks and lunch times must be staggered and taken individually.
- Hand wash, disinfectant etc. must be provided on site.
- Gloves must be worn when opening and closing gates and locks.
- All tools, machinery and any surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use every day.
- Adherence to all HSE guidelines

The following is from the Forestry Division, DAFM

- Forestry site visit inspections stopped - except in cases of illegal felling or environmental breach
- Forestry inspectors working from home
- Inspectors are carrying out desk audits (with calls to foresters and farmers where possible) and get approvals issued, where appropriate