



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN: COMPLAINTS ON EXCESSIVE PRICING FACT SHEET

We have put in regulations to prevent excessive pricing.

- On Friday 3 April 2020, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition issued regulations which contain rules governing the filing of Complaint Referrals with the Tribunal for alleged contraventions of section 8(1)(a) of the Competition Act, 98 of 1999 as amended, read with Regulation 4 of the Consumer Protection Regulations.
- The regulations provide for rules regulating complaint referrals for alleged contraventions of section 8(1)(a) of the Act read with Regulation 4 of the Consumer Protection Regulations during the period of declaration of the National State of Disaster and lockdown period.
- In terms of the COVID-19 Excessive Pricing Regulations, Complaint Referrals may be brought to the Tribunal on an urgent basis.
- The Tribunal has made provision for the Complaint Referrals to be heard remotely and on an expedited basis in light of the national lockdown.
- Members of the public are urged to contact the Competition Commission on ccsa@compcom.co.za for more information or to report excessive pricing.

Transgressors will face consequences.

- The regulations allow for alleged contraventions to be dealt with by the Tribunal on an urgent basis.
- The regulations allow the Tribunal to impose a pricing order on a respondent found to have contravened section 8(1)(a) of the Act.
- A respondent may apply to appeal or review such a pricing order on an urgent basis to the Competition Appeal Court provided that the pricing order will remain in force unless set aside by the court on appeal or review