



Centre of Excellence: Rural Safety

Suggestions for members



Regulations

The lockdown measures announced by the President in terms of the Disaster Management Act, Act 57 of 2002, supported by regulations issued by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, are aimed at preventing further spreading of COVID-19.

The regulations also aim to prevent or limit the movement of people except in cases where an essential service is rendered.

- Regulation 18 makes provision for the police, defence force, peace officers, traffic officers and defence force medical personnel as essential services.
- Regulation 20 makes provision for private security companies as an essential service. The police's interpretation is that farm watches registered with PSIRA perform an essential service. Most farm watches, however, do not provide an essential service.

General application

- The current circumstances in the country are not normal; therefore, abnormal measures are required.
- Self-regulation within the sector is now essential.
- Adhere to the regulations that have been announced.
- Contravention of these regulations could result in a fine or imprisonment for a maximum of six months, or both.
- Comply with existing legislation.
- Obey the security forces' instruction and don't become involved in arguments.
- Avoid conflict and arrest.
- Make sure that you are in possession of the necessary permit (Annexure C of the lockdown regulations) when you leave your farm.

Home and Hearth protection



- Apply the farm access protocol for safety and to prevent spreading of COVID-19.
- Be alert at all times.
- Ensure that all safety measures are in place.
- Take care of yourself, your family and farm workers and involve the workers and other staff in security actions.
- Maintain good communication with farmer associations, local security structures and neighbours.
- Maintain communication with the police station and report all crime and suspicious behaviour.

Police action



- The police have been appointed as enforcement officers together with members of the defence force and peace officers.
- Enforcement officers are not authorised to approve deviations from the regulations.
- Members of the police force must act in a supporting capacity to render a service, to serve the community with advice and assistance and to protect lives.
- Enforcement officers must allow judges, magistrates and legal practitioners to travel to courts within their jurisdiction.
- Police officers must always be in possession of an appointment certificate.



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Dealing with problems

All crime must first be reported at the local police station where a case number will be issued.

Security-related problems and application of the regulations by the police are first dealt with by police at local level, and thereafter at cluster level and then provincial level.

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National problems are forwarded in writing to Agri SA for the attention of Kobus Visser: kobus@agrisa.co.za

Police-related complaints must first be raised with the station commander.

Serious complaints about police misconduct, such as corruption, fraud, etc. can also be referred to the Independent Complaints Directorate after unsuccessful handling thereof at station level, as follows:

Eastern Cape | 082 592 9888

Free State | 063 225 6081

Gauteng | 076 455 5718

Limpopo | 078 871 4811

KwaZulu-Natal | 079 895 2741

Mpumalanga | 072 881 4196

Northern Cape | 064 624 8203

North West | 078 163 6874

Western Cape | 073 890 1269



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