

Spanish government has announced the 'suspension of opening for the public of tourist establishments' as from 19 March 2020.

Please be aware that these rules, like all regulation during past years, are drafted in the most ambiguous way. Nobody is reading and interpreting them in the same way, which creates legal insecurity. But at this point I must admit that we are used to that in Spain, where there is always a struggle involved when interpreting law. Nothing on the legal territory seems to be straight forward.

With that in mind, let me try and summarise for you the order to 'suspend the opening' of tourist establishments that have been published 19 March 2020. I will try to bring it to you in laymen terms, and only the part that could affect businesses.

It will not answer all your questions, but at least you will have a general idea of these regulations during the Corona Virus Pandemic.

**Art. 1 Suspension of opening.** The opening of hotels and similar accommodations, tourist accommodation and other accommodation for short term stays, camping, mobile home parks and similar accommodation, wherever situated in the national territory are suspended.

You can keep on staff for surveillance, maintenance or security reasons.

Establecer la **suspensión de apertura** al público de todos los **hoteles** y alojamientos similares, **alojamientos turísticos** y otros alojamientos de corta estancia, **campings**, **aparcamientos de caravanas** y otros establecimientos similares, ubicados en cualquier parte del territorio nacional.

Con carácter excepcional, queda permitida la prestación de los servicios de **vigilancia, seguridad y mantenimiento** en estos establecimientos.

**Art. 2 Existing clients.** You do not have to evict clients that were already staying in the accommodation at the start of the lockdown (14 March), but you cannot admit new clients, at least until the end of the lockdown. In case you already had clients at 17 March 2020, these clients can only remain if they have within their specific private rooms or spaces the proper facilities to 'execute activities of essential needs', which probably refers to cooking and other regular daily needs.

Queda **permitida la apertura** al público de aquellos establecimientos turísticos previstos en el apartado primero de esta orden **que alberguen clientes que, en el momento de declaración del estado de alarma, se hallen hospedados** de manera estable y de temporada, siempre que sus ocupantes cuenten con las infraestructuras, en sus propios espacios habitacionales, para poder llevar a cabo las actividades de primera necesidad en los términos que establece el Real Decreto 463/2020, de 14 de marzo, por el que se declara el estado de alarma para la gestión de la situación de crisis sanitaria

ocasionada por el COVID-19. No obstante, estos establecimientos **no podrán admitir a nuevos clientes** hasta que finalice la suspensión prevista en el apartado anterior.

**Art. 3 Closure.** The closure as referred to in the first clause needs to be effective from the moment the last client leaves the accommodation, and in any case within 7 days as of 19 March 2020.

El cierre recogido en el apartado primero se producirá en el momento en que el establecimiento no disponga de clientes a los que deba atender y, en todo caso, en el plazo máximo de siete días naturales desde la entrada en vigor de la presente norma.