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Alert Exsu	**COVID-19 Emergency** **ALERT** **ASSARMATORI** **Nos. 62, 63, 64**	**April 6th 2020**

Executive Summary

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Alert No. 62: Suspension and forfeiture of limitation periods for INAIL benefits. Accident protection in proven cases of coronavirus infection at work.

With Circular No. 13 of 3rd April 2020 the Italian National Institute for Insurance against Industrial Injuries ("INAIL") established from 23rd February 2020 through 1st June 2020, the suspension and forfeiture of the time limits relating to requests for INAIL benefits, which will then resume after the expiry of the suspension period.

The limitation periods are also suspended, while the pension review periods are suspendable upon request of the pensioner. These periods shall resume after the expiry date of the suspension period.

Additionally, the Circular further clarifies that any COVID-19 infections occurring in the working environment or as a result of carrying out work are protected for all intents and purposes as work accidents.

Alert No. 63: The request to the European Commission by Italy, Germany, France and Spain to take prompt action to address the health emergency and re-establish stable connectivity in the transport industry.

The Italian Minister of Infrastructures and Transport, together with Ministers of Spain, Germany and France, signed a joint letter to the European Commissioner for Transport calling for strong and timely measures from the European Union to tackle the health emergency and restore stable connectivity in the transport sector as soon as possible.

The Ministers proposed to the European Commission to urgently promote the adoption of "strong" measures to respond to the short- and medium-term needs of the transport industry, such as:

- Ensuring the continuity of the **transport of all goods** within the European Union as a matter of priority, in particular the supply of essential goods such as food, pharmaceuticals/medical equipment, fuel;

- Ensuring that any **health controls at internal EU borders**, where necessary, are implemented in a proportionate, transparent, non-discriminatory and coordinated manner;

- Promoting coordinated action also to **protect EU-flagged vessels from discriminatory practices by third countries**;

- Establishing a centralised crisis **coordination and management task force** at EU level;

- Introducing **temporary flexibility provisions** in the EU transport legislative framework in order to ensure the functionality of the sector in all its aspects;

- Providing for the possibility for companies of all sizes to **access dedicated support tools**, including the provisions of the "Temporary State Aid Framework" and the recently launched Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative;

- Promoting an **industrial transport policy**, in line with the Union's industrial policy, which will make it possible to safeguard critical infrastructures and European operators in the best possible way from economic and financial shocks and the volatility of international markets;

- Identifying **financial support measures that will enable all operators in the various sectors** – road, rail, **maritime** and air – **to cope in the medium term with the collapse in demand and the resulting liquidity crisis** they are already facing in many cases.

Alert No. 64: State aid: The European Commission extends the temporary framework to allow Member States to accelerate research, testing and production of COVID-19 related products, protect jobs and support the economy.

The European Commission ("Commission"), by Communication C(2020)2215 of 3rd April 2020, approved a further amendment extending the temporary framework adopted on 19th March 2020 to allow Member States to accelerate research, testing and production of coronavirus-related products, protect jobs and further support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The amendment of the temporary framework complements the many other possibilities already available to Member States to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, in line with existing Union State aid rules.

In particular, the amendment extends the Temporary Framework by introducing five additional types of aid measures aimed at the: (***i***) support for coronavirus-related research and development activities; (***ii***) support for the construction and modernisation of test facilities; (***iii***) support for the production of products to tackle the coronavirus pandemic; (***iv***) targeted support in the form of deferment of tax payments and/or suspension of social security contributions; (***v***) targeted support in the form of wage subsidies for employees.

Finally, the above-mentioned amendment to the temporary framework, in force until the end of December 2020, also extends the range of existing types of support that Member States can provide to companies in difficulty.

Further details can be found on the Commission's institutional website.

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