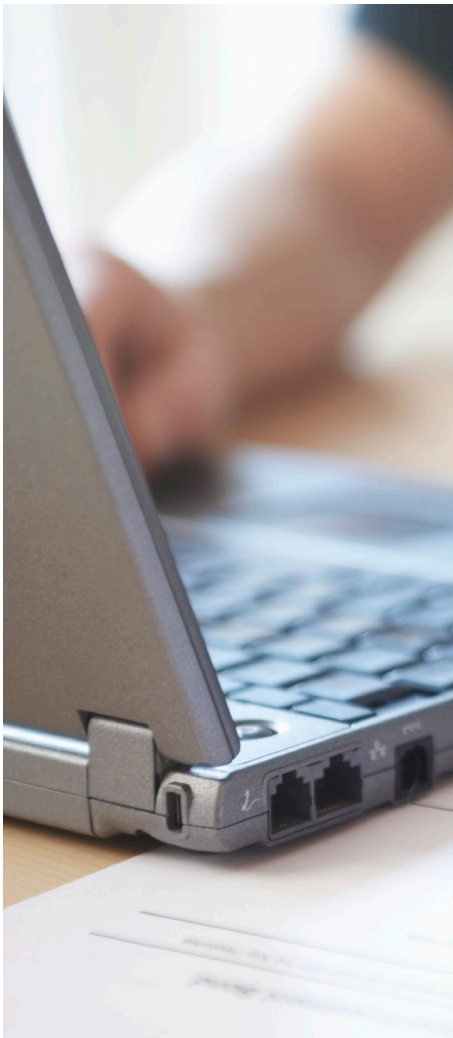


March 23, 2020

EY LAW Flash

Several Mexican authorities announce the suspension of activities and terms - COVID 19



On March 20, 2020, the Superior Council of the Federal Judiciary (for its acronym in Spanish "CJF"), the Chief Audit Office (for its acronym in Spanish "ASF") and the Chamber of Senators published various decrees in the Federal Official Gazette, approving different measures to cope with the contingencies derived from the increasing propagation of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Mexico.

- ▶ Superior Council of the Federal Judiciary

Just as the Supreme Court of Justice suspended jurisdictional activities past March 17th, 2020, the CJF deemed necessary to suspend all labor activities in the courtrooms that belong to the Federal Judiciary Branch from March 18th, 2020 until April 19th, 2020. Consequently, the terms for procedures (except for the terms for constitutional criminal matters), judicial hearings and sessions in courtrooms will be suspended, and only a minimum of jurisdictional bodies will stay open for urgent cases (i.e. diligences to receive testimonies in criminal cases, warrant orders and agreements about medical attention, etc.)¹.

- ▶ Chief Audit Office

For its part, the ASF determined the suspension of legal terms from March 23rd, 2020 up to April 17th, 2020, by which all terms are suspended for the procedures carry-out by the ASF. Notwithstanding, the activities of the General Direction of Responsibilities and General Direction of the Federal Resources for States and Municipalities, related to the initiation of procedures of reimbursements and the issue and notification of subpoenas will not be suspended. As a result, any action, requirement, request or procedure started before any of the administrative units of the ASF in the mentioned suspension term will have effects as of April 19th, 2020.

¹ The full list of jurisdictional bodies that are on-call can be consulted in the following link (in Spanish): https://www.cjf.gob.mx/resources/Anexoacdo4_2020.pdf.

- ▶ Chamber of Deputies

In this sense, the Chamber of Senators approved the request of the Chamber of Deputies to suspend indefinitely the ordinary sessions starting from today, as a contingency remedy before the health crisis of the COVID-19.

The aforesaid suspensions of activities and procedural terms, added to the actions of suspension agreed by other federal and local authorities in the previously days, among others, the following:

- ▶ Judicial Branch for Mexico City

Last March 17th, 2020, the Council of the Judiciary for Mexico City agreed to suspend duties and, consequently, the procedural terms in all the courtrooms of Mexico City from March 18th, 2020 until April 20th, 2020, with the exception of constitutional terms in criminal matters, justice for adolescents, cautionary methods and provisional suspension of processes. Also, the schedule of extraordinary shifts was modified for the courtrooms of first instance in criminal matters and for the attention of victims of gender-based violence to carry out urgent cases.

- ▶ Local Conciliation and Arbitrary Board

The Local Conciliation and Arbitrary Board in Mexico City sent out a communication last March 19th, 2020, determining the suspension of total activities from March 23rd, 2020 until April 20th, 2020. Each Local Board will publish a bulletin by which they inform the details of the suspension and terms.

- ▶ The Federal Agricultural Court

In the same sense, the Council of the Federal Agricultural Court published a decree by which the suspension of all jurisdictional and administrative activities was stated and, as consequence, it declared as non-working days from March 19th, 2020 up to April 19th, 2020, suspending all legal terms.

The above-mentioned measures were taken in the context of the first extraordinary meeting of the General Health Council, celebrated in the afternoon of March 19th, 2020, in which they recognized the COVID-19 as a grave illness which requires priority attention. As well as the suspension of all non-essential traffic in the border between USA and Mexico. It is expected that the Mexican government takes more contingency measures to face the COVID-19 in the following days.

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