

# COVID 19: How to take advantage of available technologies in order to manufacture products classified by INVIMA as Vital Non-Available

*Amidst the emergency declared by the National Government, the measure of declaring some medicines, diagnostic reagents, medical devices, and hygiene products, as “Vital Non-Available” products was implemented, among other measures, in order to accelerate the procedures for their allowance and import before INVIMA.*

*The aforementioned represents an opportunity for any person or industry looking forward to manufacture or import this type of products.*

## 1. What is a Vital Non-Available product

A Vital Non-Available product is an indispensable medicine that is not available in the country or whose available amount is not sufficient, and is used to safeguard the life or alleviate the suffering of a patient.

Due to its urgency and need, the import of this type of medicine is authorized in a more agile way, by means of a license submitted before the Single Window for Foreign Trade -VUCE.

Given the emergency caused by COVID-19, the National Government decided to respond to the urgent supply of medicines, diagnostic reagents, medical devices and hygiene products, by giving them the treatment of Vital Non-Available products.

## 2. Requirements for the import of this type of products

The import of medicines, medical devices, diagnostic reagents and hygiene products in order to supply the needs caused by the COVID-19 emergency, requires the following documents:

- In-vitro diagnostic reagents of real-time molecular methodology (RT-PCR)
  - Manufacturer information.
  - List of tests for import.
  - Free Sale Certificate from the country of origin or equivalent document.

- Vital Non-Available medicines.
  - Free Sale Certificate from the country of origin or equivalent document.
  - IUM number and/or application number.
  - Name, active ingredient and concentration, commercial presentation, and pharmaceutical form of the medicine.
  - Certificate of analysis.
  - Justification of the requested quantity.
- Vital Non-Available medical devices.
  - Manufacturer information.
  - List of products for import.
  - Free Sale Certificate from the country of origin or equivalent document.

The procedure has been shortened to two days. If all requirements are not met, it is possible to replace them, whereby such replacement should be consulted with INVIMA.

### 3. Taking advantage of available technologies

Although it is true that the current state of emergency has paralyzed productive activities across several industries, it is important to keep in mind that your factory or business can redirect its production activities to the supply of medicines, medical devices,

diagnostic reagents, hygiene products and even technological solutions that are being demanded by hospitals and health service providers.

One way of doing so is by taking advantage of the technology databases that are within the public domain, where expired patents disclosing products and processes that could meet the needs of the current market could be found thereof, given that these documents are made available to the public and display the necessary information for those interested in reproducing such products, thereby achieving a competitive advantage and offering valuable solutions in these times of crisis.

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