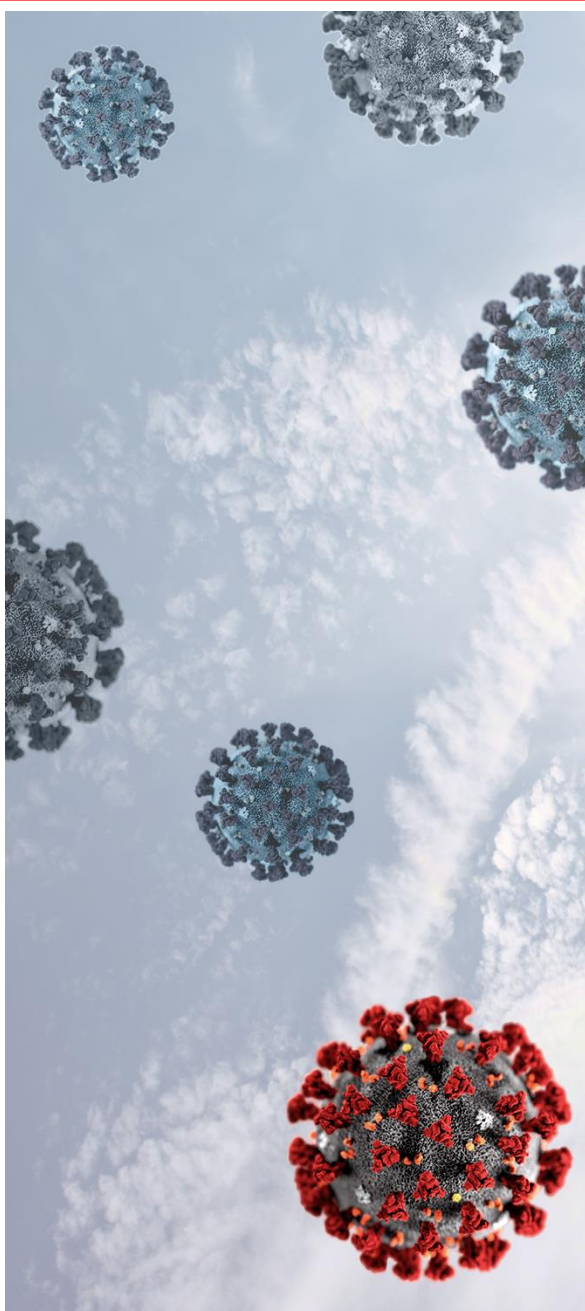

COVID-19: Consumer rights and discount sales: new measures

Newsletter | Portugal

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- > **Consumer rights and discount sales: new exceptional and temporary measures**



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Consumer protection

The current wording of Decree Law 67/2003 of April 8 affords consumers certain rights regarding defective goods, such as the right to have goods repaired or replaced, the right to a reduced price, and the right to terminate the contract. Traders can also grant consumers other rights not provided for by law, such as the right to return or exchange goods. These rights become time-barred if consumers do not exercise them within certain periods.

Since January 15, 2021, many economic activities have been suspended, and a large number of facilities and establishments have closed. As the above periods to exercise consumer rights may have fallen within this period, Decree Law 6-E/2021 of January 15 establishes:

- > a 30-day extension of the period to exercise the rights afforded to consumers under Decree Law 67/2003 of April 8, if the period ends during the suspension or closure, or within 10 days after that period; and
- > a suspension of the deadlines to exercise the rights granted to consumers by the trader during the period in which activities are suspended or establishments are closed.

Discount sales

Similar to in May (although the lifting of the lockdown had already started at the time), the Portuguese Government has now also introduced a measure to support trade by allowing that discount sales which take place while activities are suspended and facilities and establishments remain closed (as determined by the state of emergency) do not be included when calculating the maximum 124-day period per year established in section 10(1) of Decree Law 70/2007 of March 26.

During this period, economic operators are also exempt from having to submit to the Food and Economic Security Authority the informative statement provided for in the same decree.



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Cuatrecasas has set up a Coronavirus Task Force, a multidisciplinary team that constantly analyses the situation emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. For additional information, please contact our Task Force by email TFcoronavirusPT@cuatrecasas.com or through your usual contact at Cuatrecasas. You can read our publications or attend our webinars on our [website](#).

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