

---

## Covid-19 Response: Indonesia Temporarily Halts Export of Masks and Medical Protective Equipment

Following the announcement from the World Health Organization that declared Covid-19 as a pandemic, the Indonesian government continues making adjustment and taking steps to deal with the outbreak. As of 23 March 2020, there were 579 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 49 deaths and 30 recovery. Globally, the pneumonia-like illness has infected more than 330,000 people and taken at least 14,000 lives.

Amidst this outbreak, the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency (“**BPS**”) noted an increase in the export of protective masks from Indonesia to trading partner countries by an average of 3,000% during February 2020. BPS recorded that the value of the export of masks increased from USD 2,1 million in January 2020, to USD 74,7 million in February 2020.

Ironically, the increase in the export of masks occurs when Indonesia is suffering from a shortage of protective masks due to panic buying and an increase of price. In a bid to safeguard domestic supply and to protect the public health of the Indonesian public, the government issued the Minister of Trade Regulation No. 23 of 2020 on the Temporary Ban of Export of Antiseptics, Raw Materials for Masks, Personal Protective Equipment and Masks on 17 March 2020 (“**Regulation**”).

Based on the Regulation, exporters are prohibited from exporting antiseptics, raw materials for masks, personal protective equipment and masks that fall under the following Tariff Post/Harmonized System (“**HS**”):

1. alcohol-based hand rub antiseptics, hand sanitizers and the like (HS code 3004.90.30);
2. hand rub antiseptics, hand sanitizers and the like that contain a mixture of coal tar acid and alkali (HS code 3808.94.10);
3. aerosol-packaged hand rub, hand sanitizer and the like (HS code 3808.94.20);
4. hand rub antiseptics, hand sanitizers and the like that contain a mixture of coal tar acid and alkali and packaged in non-aerosol packaging (HS code 3808.94.90);
5. meltblown non-woven fabrics made from artificial filaments weighing more than 25 g/sqm (HS code 5603.11.00);
6. meltblown non-woven fabrics made from materials other than artificial filaments weighing not more than 25 g/sqm (HS code 5603.91.00);
7. medical protective clothing (HS code 6210.10.19);
8. surgical clothing (HS code 6211.43.10);
9. surgical masks (HS code 6307.90.40); and
10. other masks made from non-woven material (HS code 6307.90.90).

The export of the above items is prohibited from 18 March 2020 until 30 June 2020. Exporters who violate the Regulation may be subject to sanctions in accordance with the provisions of the prevailing laws and regulations.

### **Our Commentary**

Indonesia's move follows the move of other countries, including EU members and some ASEAN countries, to ensure that sufficient supplies of these items remain within the country. The next natural progression is for the government to cooperate with the medical industry to boost production and set a ceiling price for these items, and we will keep our clients updated of any development in this area.

## Contacts



**Wibowo Mukti**  
Partner

D +62 21 2555 7861  
F +62 21 2555 7899  
[wibowo.mukti@ahp.id](mailto:wibowo.mukti@ahp.id)



**Wilis Windar Astri**  
Associate

D +62 21 2555 7863  
F +62 21 2555 7899  
[wilis.astri@ahp.id](mailto:wilis.astri@ahp.id)

## Our Regional ontacts

### RAJAH & TANN | *Singapore*

#### Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

T +65 6535 3600  
sg.rajahtannasia.com

### R&T SOK & HENG | *Cambodia*

#### R&T Sok & Heng Law Office

T +855 23 963 112 / 113  
F +855 23 963 116  
kh.rajahtannasia.com

### RAJAH & TANN 立杰上海

#### SHANGHAI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE | *China*

#### Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP Shanghai Representative Office

T +86 21 6120 8818  
F +86 21 6120 8820  
cn.rajahtannasia.com

### ASSEGAF HAMZAH & PARTNERS | *Indonesia*

#### Assegaf Hamzah & Partners

##### Jakarta Office

T +62 21 2555 7800  
F +62 21 2555 7899

##### Surabaya Office

T +62 31 5116 4550  
F +62 31 5116 4560  
www.ahp.co.id

### RAJAH & TANN | *Lao PDR*

#### Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd.

T +856 21 454 239  
F +856 21 285 261  
la.rajahtannasia.com

### CHRISTOPHER & LEE ONG | *Malaysia*

#### Christopher & Lee Ong

T +60 3 2273 1919  
F +60 3 2273 8310  
www.christopherleeong.com

### RAJAH & TANN | *Myanmar*

#### Rajah & Tann Myanmar Company Limited

T +95 1 9345 343 / +95 1 9345 346  
F +95 1 9345 348  
mm.rajahtannasia.com

### GATMAYTAN YAP PATACSIL

#### GUTIERREZ & PROTACIO (C&G LAW) | *Philippines*

#### Gatmaytan Yap Patacsil Gutierrez & Protacio (C&G Law)

T +632 8894 0377 to 79 / +632 8894 4931 to 32  
F +632 8552 1977 to 78  
www.cagatlaw.com

### RAJAH & TANN | *Thailand*

#### R&T Asia (Thailand) Limited

T +66 2 656 1991  
F +66 2 656 0833  
th.rajahtannasia.com

### RAJAH & TANN LCT LAWYERS | *Vietnam*

#### Rajah & Tann LCT Lawyers

##### Ho Chi Minh City Office

T +84 28 3821 2382 / +84 28 3821 2673  
F +84 28 3520 8206

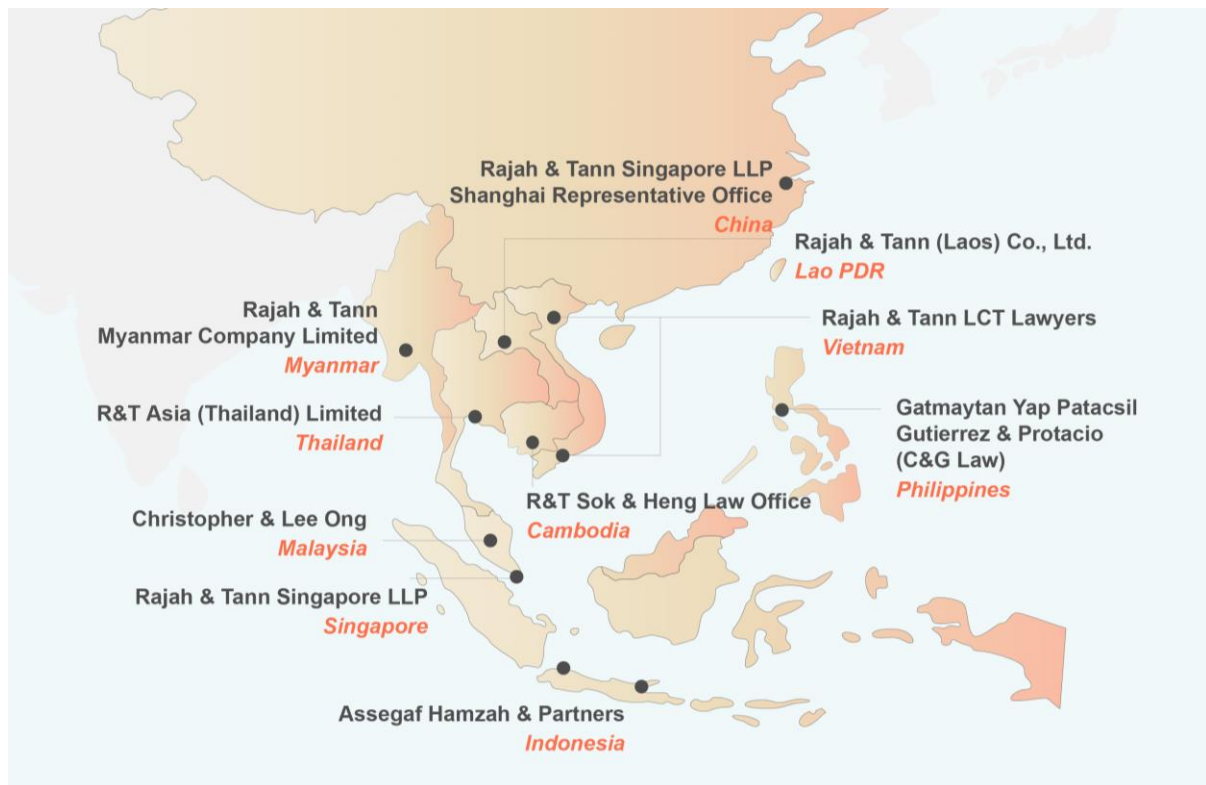
##### Hanoi Office

T +84 24 3267 6127  
F +84 24 3267 6128  
www.rajahtannlct.com

Rajah & Tann Asia is a network of legal practices based in South-East Asia. Member firms are independently constituted and regulated in accordance with relevant local legal requirements. Services provided by a member firm are governed by the terms of engagement between the member firm and the client.

This Update is solely intended to provide general information and does not provide any advice or create any relationship, whether legally binding or otherwise. Rajah & Tann Asia and its member firms do not accept, and fully disclaim, responsibility for any loss or damage which may result from accessing or relying on this Update.

## Our Regional Presence



Based in Indonesia, and consistently gaining recognition from independent observers, Assegaf Hamzah & Partners has established itself as a major force locally and regionally and is ranked as a top-tier firm in many practice areas. Founded in 2001, it has a reputation for providing advice of the highest quality to a wide variety of blue-chip corporate clients, high net worth individuals, and government institutions.

Assegaf Hamzah & Partners is part of Rajah & Tann Asia, a network of local law firms in Singapore, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Our Asian network also includes regional desks focused on Brunei, Japan and South Asia.

The contents of this Update are owned by Assegaf Hamzah & Partners and subject to copyright protection under the laws of Indonesia and, through international treaties, other countries. No part of this Update may be reproduced, licensed, sold, published, transmitted, modified, adapted, publicly displayed, broadcast (including storage in any medium by electronic means whether or not transiently for any purpose save as permitted herein) without the prior written permission of Assegaf Hamzah & Partners.

Please note also that whilst the information in this Update is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief at the time of writing, it is only intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter and should not be treated as a substitute for specific professional advice for any particular course of action as such information may not suit your specific business and operational requirements. It is to your advantage to seek legal advice for your specific situation. In this regard, you may call the lawyer you normally deal with in Assegaf Hamzah & Partners.