

## LEGISLATION OF DIFFERENT REGIONS IN SPAIN CONCERNING THE REOPENING OF EXHIBITIONS IN THE COUNTRY

### SUMMARY

On June 21, 2020, at the end of the “**STATE OF EMERGENCY**” in Spain, after successive extensions, the different regions or autonomous communities published their regulations related to public health restrictions.

Six regions had expressly included the term “exhibitions” in their legislation, and 13 had used congresses and related events instead.

Of those mentioned by the exhibitions, the Balearic Islands, the Community of Madrid and the Valencian Community established a maximum capacity of 75%; Castilla y León with 2/3 of the capacity; Navarra approved 3 m<sup>2</sup>/person and Asturias the maximum capacity of its self-protection plan.

Different interpretations could be made for the rest of the autonomous communities, depending on the wording of the decree, resolution, order or agreement.

In general, hygiene and prevention measures were addressed in a similar way in almost all documents: 1.5 m spacing or masks, cleaning and disinfection, etc.

If there were hotel and restaurant services on the premises, it was indicated that the specific regulations for said services should be applied.

In the case of congresses and meetings, there were a variety of capacities and limitations, both in closed rooms and outdoors:

- Aragon; Canary Islands; Cantabria; Castilla la Mancha; Community of Madrid and Galicia set a maximum of 300 attendees for closed venues and 1,000 outdoors, except for Cantabria, which does not indicate outdoor capacity.
- Castilla y León: 500 indoors and 1,000 outdoors.
- Murcia: 200 indoors and 500 outdoors.

- Other autonomous communities: Baleares 150; Valencian Community 75%; Extremadura 600; La Rioja unspecified; Navarra 75% of the room's capacity (above 500 there must be an additional assessment from the health authority); and the Basque Country: 60% of the capacity.

On October 25, 2020, a **“SECOND STATE OF EMERGENCY”** was declared in Spain, which would be extended on November 9 for 6 more months, until May 9, 2021.

The different regions updated their regulations over the months, depending on the health situation in their territories, with perimeter closures, prohibitions or limitations of capacity in the hotel industry, commerce, nightlife and other activities.

Occasionally, some exhibitions and events were held in person in some Spanish cities between July and December with prior permission from the respective authorities. In general, all organizers of exhibitions have been required to make a request for each planned event presenting a plan of sanitary measures and control of attendee numbers.

The exhibitions during the *second state of emergency* have not been expressly prohibited in Spain, except in some regions (eg Catalonia), but perimeter closures, mobility limitations or the evolution of the pandemic itself have convinced or forced their organizers to cancel them.

The first exhibitions of 2021 in Spain took place at the end of March giving way to some 50 events in the following months, including some of international nature (eg FITUR in May in Madrid and Mobile World Congress in June). MWC was held in Barcelona with measures and regulations similar to that of FITUR with a smaller size than usual and with fewer visitors than in past editions as also happened with FITUR.

If the situation allows it, more than 200 exhibitions planned in Spain will be held in the second half of 2021, respecting the measures established by the respective regional authorities in terms of limitations of hours, capacity, etc., and taking into account the existing protocols.

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