



Ministerie van Toerisme, Economische Zaken, Verkeer en Telecommunicatie

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic and Telecommunication

POLICY: MORATORIUM ON BUSINESS AND OPERATIONAL LICENSES SUPERMARKETS

1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes the parameters on the issuance of business and operational licenses for supermarkets.

2. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all new applications for business and operational licenses for supermarkets.

3. GOALS & PRINCIPLES

The Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication (TEZVT) believes in the general interest and preservation of the economic development of the market.

4. POLICY

The Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication in his capacity has seen the need in the general interest to implement a moratorium on the issuance of business and operational licenses for supermarkets.

Supermarkets are defined as *"De import, export, het kopen en verkopen van-, de groot- en kleinhandel in- en de distributie van: a. verse, ingeblikte, bevroren en gedroogde levens- en genotsmiddelen; b. huishoudelijke artikelen; c. groenten en fruit; d. vis en vlees; e. alcoholische en alcoholvrije dranken"*.

Implementation of this moratorium was decided after consideration of:

- i. The fact that the government needs time to review the basis for further development of the supermarket industry through new and additional entry of supermarkets;
- ii. The fact that the government needs time to verify the impact of the current composition of the supermarket industry, its penetration and the quality of its service on the economy of St. Maarten;
- iii. The fact that the Government has to prepare a new zoning policy, taking into account the results of the household assessment, with particular attention to the services offered and in which areas, to determine to which extent the needs of consumers in St. Maarten are satisfied and to which extent the economic growth is driven on St. Maarten.



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Allowing or issuing additional business and operational licenses for supermarkets, could entail consequences that create harm to the existing supermarkets and their investments, with the end result of providing inadequate quality and service that will not benefit the economy of St. Maarten. The Government has the task to prevent such a negative impact on the supermarket industry, and therefor establishes this moratorium.

- i. Effective immediately a temporary stop on all applications for business and operational licenses for supermarkets has been implemented.
- ii. This moratorium will go into effect as of February 18, 2014 and remain in effect until the completion of the household assessment study and the economic zoning policy.
- iii. The moratorium applies to all applicants, each applicant must be informed of this moratorium.
- iv. The department of economic licenses and the control department are responsible for the monitoring of this moratorium.
- v. The public will be notified of any changes via the local media and the government website www.sintmaartengov.org

MINISTER OF TOURISM, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TRAFFIC AND TELECOMMUNICATION

