

New Emergency Guidelines for Health, Airport and Gas Station Facilities Approved

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An McV Corporate & Health Care Alert

June 20, 2018

On April 14, 2018, Governor Ricardo Rosselló signed Act No. 88-2018 (the “Act”) setting emergency guidelines that healthcare facilities, gas stations, airports and other establishments must follow in the event of an emergency caused by a catastrophic event.

Pursuant to the Act, healthcare facilities, dialysis centers, airports, gas stations, retirement homes, nursing homes and shelters are required to have an independent power generator that can provide electricity to the facility in the event of a power outage as a consequence of force majeure. These facilities must store enough fuel to power the generators for at least twenty (20) days, as well as enough water in a reserve tank for at least for five (5) days following a disaster. Moreover, dialysis centers and other healthcare facilities must store a twenty (20) day supply of certain medications to be identified by the Puerto Rico Department of Health.

The facilities subject to this Act must certify to the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency their compliance with the Act’s provisions. Violation of these provisions may result in fines of up to \$100,000.00 and/or suspension of the facility’s license to operate.

The Act became effective as of April 14, 2018.

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