

# CZ: NEW LIMITATION ON STORE OPENING HOURS DURING HOLIDAYS

What will change?  
Who will be affected?  
Who won't be?

What are the potential consequences of a violation?

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The Czech Parliament has approved a new law on opening hours for retailers and wholesalers, which we expect will come into effect on 1 October 2016. The law mandates that stores be closed on eight public holidays. Read on for more details.

## What will change?

Retailers and wholesalers may not open on these holidays: (i) 1 January, (ii) Easter Monday, (iii) 8 May, (iv) 28 September, (v) 28 October, (vi) 24 December (from 12:00 pm to midnight), (vii) 25 December and (viii) 26 December.

## Who will be affected?

The ban on sales during holidays relates to stores with a sales floor of more than 200 m<sup>2</sup> (i.e. supermarkets as well as other stores with a large sales floor). The ban also applies to all pawnshops, second-hand stores and facilities for the collection and purchase of waste, regardless of their size.

## Are there any exceptions?

The following exceptions to the ban on sales during holidays have been stipulated: (i) stores whose sales floor is smaller than 200 m<sup>2</sup>; (ii) petrol stations selling fuels and lubricants; (iii) pharmacies; (iv) stores in areas of increased concentration of passengers at airports, railway stations and bus terminals; (v) stores in medical facilities; and (vi) retailers and wholesalers at times when a state of danger, state of emergency, state of threat or state of war has been declared.

## What are the potential consequences of a violation?

Violation of the ban on sales during holidays is an administrative delict for which a fine of up to CZK 1 million may be imposed and up to CZK 5 million for repeated violations.

Should you have any questions regarding the ban on sales during holidays, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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