PETALING JAYA : Loading and unloading activities for import and export purposes will be allowed to operate 24 hours daily effective immediately, says Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong. He said the ease of the movement of all goods nationwide would make it easier for companies to conduct business.

"The decision was made following a request from the Transport Ministry to the National Security Council (NSC) in order to prevent congestion at warehouses and container yards. "Previously, this activity to load and unload non-essential goods carried out at premises was limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8am to 8pm," he said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Wee added that operators must comply with the standard operating procedure (SOP) stipulated by the NSC, which includes full compliance with the SOP under the current phase of the National Recovery Plan (NRP). "Companies involved in these activities must have permission by the Transport Ministry or through the Covid-19 Intelligent Management System (CIMS) 3.0 operated by the International Trade and Industry Ministry. "Companies are permitted to operate based on the percentage of employees that have been vaccinated," he said.

He added that a company could operate at 60% of its current staffing if 40% of its employees had received vaccinations. With 60% of the employees being vaccinated, the company could operate with 80% of its staff, he added.

"A company may operate with 100% staffing if 80% of its staff have received vaccination for Covid-19," he said.

Other SOP were the typical health protocols as stipulated by the Health Ministry, such as temperature screening, checking in with MySejahtera, maintaining physical distancing, wearing face masks, and using hand sanitisers. Dr Wee said persons with Covid-19 symptoms, those residing in enhanced movement control areas, under surveillance and under quarantine would not be allowed into the premises. He said any violation of the

associated SOP could result in action taken under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342).

"As always, the ministry will continue to monitor conditions on the ground to ensure a healthy and enabling environment for participants of the logistics and transport industry to thrive," he added. Companies can refer to the latest SOP as and when they are updated at <u>www.mkn.gov.my</u>.

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