



The Establishments and Activities Decree BES (IAB BES) and the accompanying Establishments and Activities Decree Regulations BES (RIA BES) will come into effect on 1 April 2024. This concerns Dutch government legislation that applies to all the BES islands.

The decree deals with the environmental impact of establishments and makes a distinction in categories I to IV, from light impact (I) to heavy impact (IV). Establishments are the businesses on Saba.

The IAB BES will be effective from 1 April 2024 concerning the categories III and IV. For Saba Chapter 2 of the IAB BES and the RIA BES, concerning the categories I and II, will become effective on 1 January 2026 at the latest.

The Executive Council of Saba is the competent authority regarding Categories I, II and III. The Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management is the competent authority for Category IV.

Although Categories III and IV will have to comply from 1 April 2024 in practice that does not mean that from that time the new rules will be enforced straightaway.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of April does not mean that establishments have to comply with the new legislation from that day, but can be seen as a starting point for getting the necessary elements in order for compliance with the legislation and proper enforcement. First, an inventory must be made to categorize the establishments on the island. An Island ordinance and a policy how to execute the given powers is also part of implementation process.

The implementation process will be thorough and, when possible, support will be given to help establishments meet the requirements.

The establishments will be approached later to inform them on the new law, its consequences and the roadmap from 1 April 2024 respectively 1 January 2026.

The Dutch version of the IAB BES can be found at: <https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stb-2023-493.html>

The link to an English version will be published on the government website when it becomes available.