



IATA Cargo Border Management Bulletins in relation to COVID-19

The IATA Cargo Border Management Bulletins are issued on an ad-hoc basis by the IATA Cargo Border Management team on topics of broad interest relating to Customs or Security matters impacting air cargo. **The below bulletins are those that were issued in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak.**

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Bulletin #95 December 2020

Affected area – Customs

WCO and ICAO emphasized the importance of facilitated cross-border movements of situationally critical medicines and vaccines

On 12 December 2020, the World Customs Organization (WCO) Council adopted a [Resolution on the Role of Customs in Facilitating the Cross-Border Movement of Situationally Critical Medicines and Vaccines](#), listing several measures and actions to be taken by Customs administrations to ensure the fast and safe clearance of such goods for export, transit and import. Recommended measures include carrying out the clearance of situationally critical medicines and vaccines as a matter of priority, non-intrusive inspections to the extent possible, examinations on relevant medicines and vaccines only in exceptional circumstances, etc.

On 9 December 2020, ICAO issued a [State Letter concerning air cargo operations during the Covid-19 pandemic](#), urging ICAO States to adhere to ICAO Standards contained in Annex 9 – Facilitation and other



relevant Annexes to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, as well as effective implementation of Annex 17 – Security. The enclosed letter is reinforcing the COVID-19 related guidance from months back, highlighting the need for digitalization across the supply chain in light of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) guidance and announcing new ICAO guidance material on safe cargo operations in a COVID-19 context (“Guidance for Safe Operations Involving Aeroplane Cargo Compartments” - Doc 10102 and “Guidance on a Competency-based Approach to Dangerous Goods Training and Assessment” - Doc 10147) that has just become available to ICAO States. Additional information including on the Guidelines for Aviation Security Contingency Measures during the COVID-19 Pandemic can be obtained from your national Civil Aviation authority.

Bulletin #89

June 2020

Affected area - Security

BCAS Extension of Certifications Addendum

(Reference: CMB Bulletin #85) Please be informed that BCAS has issued an Addendum to AvSec Circular 04/2020, to grant further extensions for the eligibility period of refresher courses for lapsed or lapsing certification of all aviation security training. This applies to certificates expiring on or after 20 March up to 31 August 2020.

The remainder of the content of the AvSec Circular 04/2020 remains unchanged and airlines are advised to [contact BCAS directly](#) for further information in this regard.

Bulletin #86

April 2020

Affected area – Security

Deferred Implementation of Changes to the Regulation of Known Consignors



The Singapore Police Force issued an [Airport Security Circular on 20 April 2020](#) notifying that the Airport Police Division, in consultation with the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, will defer implementing the changes to the regulation of Known Consignors to 1 April 2021.

You can find all the information on the [Singapore Police Force website](#), including the "[Regulation of Known Consignors](#)."

Bulletin #85

April 2020

Affected area – Security

India – Extensions due to the COVID-19 Crisis

Please be informed that in view of the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown in India, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, per AvSec Training Circular 04/2020 dated 06 April 2020, has:

- Granted extension for the eligibility period of refresher courses for lapsed or lapsing certificates of all aviation security training in respect of pilots, flights engineers, air/cabin crew, ground security handling staff, x-ray screeners, aviation security instructors and auditors. This applies to certificates expiring on or after 20 March up to 20 June 2020.
- Granted extension for the validity of the Aerodrome Entry Permits (AEP) until 30 June 2020.

Airlines are advised to contact BCAS directly for further information in this regard.

Bulletin #84

April 2020

Affected area – Customs

US CBP Guidance for export of PPE shipments from the US

On 7 April 2020, the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a temporary rule, valid at least until 8 August 2020, to "allocate certain scarce or threatened materials for domestic use, so that these materials may not be exported from the United States without explicit approval by FEMA". The rule



covers five types of personal protective equipment (PPE), including facepiece respirators, surgical masks and gloves (further details on the impacted PPE can be found in the FEMA rule referenced at the end of this bulletin).

US Customs and Border Protection (US CBP) issued on 9 April 2020 some [related internal guidance](#) specifying in particular that:

- the focus of this restriction is on commercial quantities (i.e. shipments valued USD 2,500 or over and containing more than 10,000 units);
- some exports are exempted based on some destinations (CA, MX, US Government entities such as military bases overseas) or shippers (US Government agencies and charities, critical infrastructure industries for the protection of their workers, the 3M company);
- in-transit shipments remain exempted.

Ports will continue to assess risk on shipments filed in the Automated Export System (AES) and target shipments for commercial quantities that do not meet the above listed exclusions.

US CBP may soon make changes to the enclosed guidance due to some questions that have come up since this guidance was issued.

The FEMA temporary rule can be found at

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/10/2020-07659/prioritization-and-allocation-of-certain-scarce-or-threatened-health-and-medical-resources-for>

Bulletin #83

April 2020

Affected area – Customs

South African measures on the lock-down implemented from 26 March 2020

On 23 March 2020, the government of South Africa announced a country-wide lockdown from midnight 26 March 2020 until midnight 16 April 2020. As a result:

- (1) All international and domestic flights are prohibited, irrespective of the risk category of their country of origin;
- (2) Only essential air cargo will be allowed, however, cargo from high risk countries must be sanitized.

The South African Civil Aviation Authorities provided some detailed guidance (as well as contact details) in a [SACAA Industry Communiqué](#).

Conditions on the entry of air cargo are detailed in the enclosed [Aviation Directions signed on 25 March 2020](#) and relating to the Disaster Management Act of 2002. These Directions provide in particular:

- the list of eight international airports considered as ready to handle air cargo (cf. Section 6 page 4)
- the risk classification of countries considered as impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak (Appendix I, referring to the WHO classification but also leaving further discretion to the Ministry of Transport).

Several relevant government contact details can be found at

<http://www.caa.co.za/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/ESSENTIAL%20SERVICES%20AT%20THE%20SACAA%20-%20CLIENT%20LIST.pdf>

Bulletin #82

April 2020

Affected area – Customs

EU waiver on customs duties and VAT for medical equipment EU import from non-EU countries

On 3 April, the European Commission published a decision making it possible for EU Member States to temporarily suspend customs duties and VAT on medical equipment (masks and protective equipment, testing kits, ventilators, etc.). The objective of this decision is to financially facilitate the import of the currently desperately needed medical equipment into the EU.

This decision follows a formal request made by all EU Members states, as well as the UK.

EU Member States have until 30 November 2020 to inform the EU Commission of the nature and quantities of the various goods admitted free of import duties and VAT under this decision.

The measure is applicable from 30 January 2020 until 31 July 2020, with a possibility for further extension. This allows imports carried out during the incipient phase of the outbreak to also benefit from the exemption.

The EU Commission's decision is enclosed and the press release can be found at https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575

Bulletin #81

April 2020

Affected area – Customs

US CBP web repository COVID-19 Updates and Announcements

In their attempt at providing transparent and relevant updates and responding to incoming questions in a timely manner, the United States Customs and Border Protection (US CBP) have created a [webpage](#) specifically dedicated to the most recent information, guidance and messaging on the impacts of COVID-19 to Trade.

US CBP has committed to update the webpage regularly to reflect the most current information available. It includes Cargo Systems Messaging Service communications related to COVID-19 as well as updates and announcements in trade programs and cargo security.

Bulletin #80

March 2020

Affected area – Customs

EU Guidelines on Facilitating Air Cargo Operations During COVID-19 Outbreak

On 26 March 2020, the EU Commission issued the enclosed Guidelines aimed at enabling cargo to continuously deliver critical products such as food, medical supplies, -personal protective equipment and other products which are vital for the functioning of sensitive supply chains.

These Guidelines complement the EU Guidelines issued on 16 March 2020 "for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services" (cf. CBM Bulletin #75 below).

The March 26 Guidelines request specifically the EU Member States to facilitate air cargo operations during the COVID-19 outbreak, noting that in the EU " *around half of all air cargo is carried in the hold of passenger aircrafts*", nearly all of which are currently not flying. In particular, these Guidelines:

- call on EU Member States to clearly exempt cargo flights from their national restrictions on aviation;
- call on EU Member States to renounce to flight restrictions within the EU which prohibit air cargo flights in the absolute or which render the operation of such flights de facto impossible, for example as a result of unjustified restrictions on aircrew servicing air cargo flights;
- confirm that the EU Commission will take " *all practical steps to ensure that third countries comply with their international obligations, in particular vis-à-vis Union air carriers, and to promote the application of these principles by third countries and international organisations*";
- invite EU Member States to implement a series of operational measures to facilitate air cargo transport and help reduce additional costs (cf. item 10 in the enclosed).

These Guidelines may be of assistance to air cargo supply chain stakeholders involved with EU Member States in the management of the current national border constraints.

Simultaneously IATA issued a [press release](#) on these latest guidelines, welcoming the EU Commission's understanding of the industry's current challenges and calling on EU Member States to act quickly to ensure that this guidance is followed and on other governments to follow the European Commission's example and implement similar measures. IATA's advocacy measures are continuing along those same lines.

The March 26 EU guidelines can be found at https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20202010_en.pdf

Bulletin #79

March 2020

Affected area – Customs

Resources in relation to COVID-19 – UPDATE

As an update to our CBM Bulletins #75 (EU Guidelines to EU Member States for Border Management measures in relation with COVID-19) and #78 (World Customs Organization resources in relation to COVID-19), please note that:

- concerning the [webpage](#) set up by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to assist with border management issues resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak, the WCO has now added a [list of national legislation](#) with temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19;
- in relation with the [EU Guidelines](#) on border management measures during the outbreak, the EU Commission has now created a new webpage listing the EU Member States' [announced restrictions to transport](#).

IATA is also providing its own list of announced restrictions to transport at <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/safety/health/diseases/government-measures-related-to-coronavirus/> based on the information communicated to IATA.

IATA has created a specific section on its air cargo website to inform on the current efforts to keep air cargo moving under the current difficult circumstances. These actions can all be found at <https://www.iata.org/cargo>

Bulletin #78

March 2020

Affected area – Customs

World Customs Organization resources in relation to COVID-19

The World Customs Organization (WCO) has created a specific section of its public website providing useful information to assist with border management issues resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

The following elements may be of direct interest to the air cargo supply chain:

- indicative list of HS Classification references for Covid-19 related medical supplies
- several national best practices, recommendations and Covid-19 related notices (for now the following countries/links are listed: BE, BG, CA, CL, CZ, DE, FI, GR, NZ, SR, ZA)
- a section on the latest WCO communications in relation with this outbreak (for example a recent [Urgent Notice on counterfeit medical supplies and introduction of export controls on personal protective equipment](#))

The webpage can be found at <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/natural-disaster/coronavirus.aspx>

Bulletin #75

March 2020

Affected area – Customs

EU Guidelines to EU Member States for Border Management measures in relation with COVID-19

The EU Commission has issued some Guidelines this week for EU Member States to maintain the functioning of the Single Market in the current extraordinary circumstances.

These Guidelines call for coordination at EU level and set out a series of principles for an integrated approach meant at protecting health while preserving the integrity of the EU Single Market. In particular, these guidelines call for:

- “green lanes” for emergency transport services
- preservation of supply chains and unobstructed transport of
 - food supplies
 - vital medical and protective equipment and supplies
- facilitation of safe movement for pilots and aircrew across internal and external borders
- transparent, duly motivated, proportionate, relevant/mode-specific and non-discriminatory restrictions when those are issued on grounds of public health
- respect of the specific rules that apply to emergency measures in the aviation sector
- no additional certifications imposed on goods legally circulating within the EU single market
- reinforcement of specific transport nodes including airports.

Those guidelines may be of assistance to air cargo supply chain stakeholders involved with EU member states in the management of the current national border constraints.

These EU guidelines can be found at https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf