

Directorate General of Customs – Algeria

30 April 2020

Measures adopted by Algerian Customs to manage the COVID-19 pandemic

1. Measures to facilitate the cross-border movement of relief consignments and essential supplies
<p>1.1. In the Customs' Information System, the green and orange circuit has been allocated to the import of medical supplies as part of the campaign against COVID-19.</p> <p>1.2. A special Customs clearance procedure for essential goods and medicines has been set up.</p> <p>1.3. Customs maintains a risk management and anti-fraud system (seizure of medical devices, narcotics, psychotropic substances, kerosene, etc.).</p> <p>1.4. Goods imported as donations by humanitarian associations are duty- and tax-exempt.</p> <p>1.5. Customers have access to simplified Customs clearance procedures subject to producing a letter from the declarant (together with the transport document) undertaking to sign the detailed declaration and complete the Customs clearance formalities, including payment of duties and taxes, after the goods have been cleared.</p>
2. Measures to support the economy and ensure supply chain continuity
<p>2.1. Exports of staple foodstuffs have been stopped.</p> <p>2.2. The exporting of medical devices is banned.</p>
3. Measures to ensure protection for Customs Administration personnel
<p>3.1. All officers who are exposed to passengers, the general public and goods are supplied with the means to protect themselves (gloves, protective masks, alcohol-based hand-sanitizer and non-contact infrared forehead thermometers).</p> <p>3.2. All other officers are supplied with alcohol-based hand-sanitizer.</p> <p>3.3. Periodical workplace disinfection campaigns are planned.</p> <p>3.4. Strict social-distancing measures have been imposed (particularly in canteens and in offices to which members of the public are admitted).</p> <p>3.5. All spaces where people ordinarily gather are closed (prayer room, cafeteria, lift).</p> <p>3.6. All meetings that are not considered a priority have been postponed, and necessary meetings have been shortened, with those attending required to keep the prescribed distance from each other.</p> <p>3.7. Only officers whose presence is necessary shall be physically present at work, and teleworking must be preferred whenever possible.</p> <p>3.8. All officers returning from missions abroad and all officers who have been in contact with a person suffering from COVID-19 (particularly someone close to them) must be placed in quarantine (for 14 days).</p>

3.9. Extensive awareness-raising campaigns aimed at Customs officers have been launched on the various media used by the Customs Administration for communication purposes (social networks, posters, etc.).

3.10. The following stages in Customs investigations have been deferred:

- calling in all users of the Administration (economic operators, Customs clearing agents, consignees and others);
- taking evidence from all users of the Administration who are under investigation;
- unannounced on-site inspections or inspections at residential addresses.

Urgent and special investigations are, of course, still being taken on.

3.11. Customs activities involving groups of people (auctions, sporting activities) have been suspended.

4. Measures to ensure protection for the public

4.1. A section on the fight against the spread of COVID-19 has been put online on the Algerian Customs website, including the new statutory provisions governing the trade in goods linked to protection against the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Other measures

5.1. Customs is to be represented on the National Commission responsible for establishing facilitation and decision-taking measures and chaired by the Prime Minister.

5.2. A Central Standing Committee to Prevent, Monitor and Control the Spread of COVID-19 has been set up in the Directorate General of Customs.

5.3. Monitoring units have been set up at the regional and local levels and in the national Customs centres, to follow up and implement the guidelines issued by the Central Commission referred to above.

5.4. Round-the-clock shifts have been started, staffed by Customs officers and tasked with passing on all useful information about the spread of COVID-19 and measures which have been adopted or urgently need to be adopted.

5.5. Customs transit documents issued to non-residents are automatically extended until normal conditions are restored, the present situation being regarded as a case of *force majeure*.

5.6. Vehicles imported under TPD in the context of emergency removal of nationals are accepted for processing, the present situation being regarded as a case of *force majeure*.

5.7. ATA carnets are cleared in cases of *force majeure*.

5.8. The Customs procedures with economic impact referred to in Articles 180, 181, 182 and 193 of the Algerian Customs Code are followed in cases of *force majeure*.