COVID-19 [Lebanon]

Bulletin n°4 – CIQP : 22 July 2020
(Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

IMPACCT
IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

Latest updates highlighted in yellow.

COUNTRY BRIEF / COMPTE RENDU

Lebanon was included in the second edition of the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) published on 6 May 2020, within the Regional Response Plan for Syria.

Internal restrictions have been imposed. The President of Lebanon declared a '*State of Medical Emergency*' on 15 March 2020. The government on 18 May initiated a five-step plan to gradually ease restrictions, including allowing some businesses to reopen. A nightly curfew was initially put in place. On 30 June, the government decided to re-extend public mobilization while maintaining economic activities, which were allowed to gradually re-operate. Moreover, on 1 July, the Minister of Interior and Municipalities issued a memo lifting a months-long nighttime curfew and allowing businesses to open beyond midnight. Individuals are still required to wear masks and observe social distancing.

AIRPORT STATUS / STATUT DES AEROPORTS

1. Airport / Flight restrictions (updated 1 July 2020).

The *State of Medical Emergency* announced on 15 March 2020, declared that all air, land and sea ports were closed for passengers. Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport was officially re-opened on 1 July, operating at 10 per cent of capacity in comparison to operations prior to its closure.

As per a government circular applying to Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport, passenger flights are now allowed at the airport under the following rules:
- Passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result issued at most 96 hours before arrival;
- Passengers without a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result are subject to medical screening;
- A health declaration form must be completed online upon arrival;
- Passengers are subject to medical screening;
- Passengers must have an insurance to cover medical expenses in Lebanon.

These rules apply to all passengers coming to Lebanon. However, passengers travelling to Lebanon, except military personnel, diplomats, members of international organizations, UNIFIL and members of the Lebanese National Social Security Fund or staff cooperative, need to possess an insurance policy that is valid for the duration of their stay in Lebanon, covering all costs of treatment for coronavirus on Lebanese territory.

(source: IATA, 1 July 2020; Director General of Civil Aviation, 29 June 2020).

2. Passengers / Quarantine (updated 15 March 2020).

Passengers arriving from countries that require a negative COVID-19 PCR test result (as per a Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) circular) must ensure that the test result and date are uploaded to the MoPH online platform. Passengers must self-quarantine until the issuance of the result of the test conducted at the Airport (24 hours to 48 hours).

If the passenger arrives with a negative PCR test result, they will have to undertake another PCR during the next 72 hours during which they will be self-quarantining until the

negative result of a second PCR test is delivered. With the second negative PCR test result, they can resume normally to work.

(source: Ministry of Public Health)

3. Airlines cargo Operations status (updated 17 June 2020).

All flights through Sun Express to and from Lebanon have been suspended until 5 July.

Flights are operating through Qatar Airways; the carrier is shipping medical supplies donated by Qatar Fund to destinations including Lebanon through freight charters.

(source: IATA, 17 June 2020).

IMPORTATION AND CUSTOMS / IMPORTATION ET DOUANES

4. Customs, land, sea (updated 21 July 2020).

Sea port restrictions at the Port of Beirut are as follows:
- The port of Beirut remains open;
- All vessels calling at the port should submit to the Harbor Master, upon their arrival, the list of the last 10 Ports of Call and to the Quarantine center the certificate of Medical Compliance together with the sanitation control exemption certificate;
- Before entering the port, vessel must drop anchor and port authorities will board the vessel to check the crew health, to ensure that all crew members are in good health;
- Crew change and shore leave are not permitted;
- Ports are operating normally but with lower efficiency due to manpower reductions. Ports are affected by increased verification and crew restrictions.

(source: Wilhelmsen, 15 April 2020).

According to an operational update, status at **sea ports** is as follows:
- Port operations are operating at lower efficiency due to manpower restrictions
- Slight container and equipment shortages are impacting operations

According to an operational update, status at **airports** is as follows:
- Freighters are flying at normal but capacity is constrained
- Terminals are operating as normal for cargo; only passenger flights are limited.

(source: Agility, undated).

Road cargo operations are impacted by restrictions:
- Foreign trucks are subject to transhipment;
- There are some restrictions for road networks within cities;
- There are some restrictions on cargo movement between cities or regions;
- Cross-border road freight operations are affected by slight delays/disruption in local pick-up, land border restrictions, and driver/equipment constraints.

(source: Agility, undated).

The Syrian border with Lebanon is open for cargo movement, with a 2-5 day waiting time (source: Syrian Logistics Cluster, 12 May 2020). According to a decision of the Council of Ministers on 31 March 2020 related to the return of Lebanese expatriates from abroad, land borders with Syria will be opened through two border-crossing points at Al-Masnaa and Al-Aboudia, on 21 July 2020 and 23 July 2020 from 09:00 until 16:00 only for Lebanese citizens and their family members who are present in Syria and wish to return to Lebanon (source: Lebanon Council of Ministers, 31 March 2020).

Cargo flights are available to book through the Humanitarian Booking Hub, to and from Beirut. The WFP flight schedule is as follows:
- **On Mondays** Cairo, Beirut, Yerevan, Bagdad, Erbil;
- **On Wednesdays** Cairo, Beirut, Yerevan, Bagdad, Erbil.

(source: Humanitarian Booking Hub, undated).

For WFP flights, there is no lockdown and special approvals are not needed in the below cases: nationalities that are exempt from visa processing prior to entry (list found on GSO website), UNLP holders, Syrian and Palestinian nationals if they fulfil the criteria of entry and residence in Lebanon applicable prior to COVID-19 measures, travelers transiting through Syria must have proof of approved entry into Syria in order to be granted a transit visa (source: OCHA Lebanon, July 2020).

However, WFP's Global Passenger Service operated its last flight between Sharjah and Cairo/Beirut on **Wednesday, 22 July** after which, WFP discontinued future Sharjah-Cairo-Beirut-Sharjah flights. Travel Focal points are thus required to make different arrangements to facilitate staff travel to & from Cairo/Beirut (source: WFP Lebanon).

5. Customs, importation procedure (updated 22 February 2020).

A directive preventing the exportation of certain items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was issued on 22 February 2020. The following items were included, published on the Lebanese Customs website:
- Surgical puncture resistant gloves;
- Heavy duty gloves;
- Boot leg and shoe cover;
- Impermeable overall suit;
- Surgical masks and N-95 respirator;
- Impermeable hood cover and hairnet;
- Disposable gowns especially impermeable protective gown;
- Chemotherapy gown;
- Face shield;
- Impermeable boot;
- Aprons;
- Long sleeved gown.

(source: Lebanon Customs Administration, 22 February 2020).

The port of Beirut and the international airport contain refrigerated areas designed for the storage of several kinds of merchandise including medicines and medical equipment (source: WCO, 2020).

6. Annex J-5 of the Revised Kyoto Convention: Not ratified.

7. Annex B.9 of the Istanbul Convention: Not ratified.

8. ASYCUDA user: Yes.

9. ASYREC user: No.

USEFUL LINKS / LIENS UTILES

CIQP Bulletins for other countries are available here.

Country-specific:

Director General of Civil Aviation, Circular No. 33/2 (English) (29 June 2020)

Director General of Civil Aviation, Circular No. 33/2 (Arabic) (29 June 2020)

Lebanon Republic Customs Administration, Customs Directive (22 February 2020)

Ministry of Public Health, news page

Ministry of the Economy, news page

OCHA, Lebanon bi-monthly situation report (10 July 2020)

UNHCR, Lebanon COVID-19 Update (10 July 2020)

General:

Agility, Global Shipping Updates: COVID-19

International Air Transport Association (IATA), Coronavirus Outbreak – Update

IATA, Government Measures Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

IATA, Air Cargo Operations status - COVID-19

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), COVID-19 airport status

International Organization for Migration, Points of Entry Status

International SOS, Travel Restrictions, Flight Operations and Screening

United Nations, Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19

United Nations, Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19 – May Update

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19

Wilhemsen, COVID-19 Global Port Restrictions Map

World Customs Organization, _HS classification reference list for COVID-19 medical supplies (3rd edition)_

World Customs Organization, _COVID-19 – WCO Updates_

World Customs Organization, _List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19_

World Health Organization, _Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports_

World Trade Organization, _COVID-19: Trade and Trade-related measures_

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