IMPACCT

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

COVID-19 Pakistan

Bulletin n° 4 - CIQP : 17 August 2020

(Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

Latest updates highlighted in <mark>yellow</mark>.

OBJECTIVE

This document provides a situational update on airport status and Customs entry points during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 CASES

Number of COVID-19 cases on the date of the GHRP: 991

Number of COVID-19 cases on 16 August 2020: <mark>288,717</mark>

COUNTRY BRIEF

Pakistan was included in the May update of the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), under 'Other Appeals'.

Pakistan has eased restrictions on national and international aid groups seeking to carry out relief work in the country, as well as sectors deemed by the government as 'low risk'. <mark>Public transport has restarted across Pakistan with some restrictions. Domestic flight operations have restarted at all airports in Pakistan. Authorities can impose local restrictions on travel to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Follow federal and relevant provincial guidance, and monitor local media for updates. The government have eased many of the lockdown restrictions on citizens, as well as a number of industries.</mark>

IMPORTATION MEASURES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN	
Is there a Humanitarian Response Plan for the country?	No. But it is included in the 2020 GHRP under 'Other Appeals'.
AIRPORT STATUS and FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS	
What is the status of international flights?	<mark>International passenger operations to/from all airports in Pakistan are now allowed. International scheduled flight operations to/from Pakistan will revert to authorizations as per summer-2020 scheduling season. These flight operations shall be conducted in accordance with established guidelines and applicable SOPs. This also applies to international cargo and special flight operations as per applicable SOPs.</mark>

	(source: ICAO, 7 August 2020)
	All types of domestic passenger operations to/from all airports are now allowed. Domestic scheduled flight operations will revert to authorizations as per summer-2020 scheduling season. Domestic flight operations shall be conducted in accordance with established guidelines and applicable SOPs. This also applies to international cargo and special flight operations as per applicable SOPs.
	(source: ICAO, 7 August 2020)
	Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for outbound international flights have already been issued according to which airlines will be required to follow the SOPs of the destination country. Additionally, disinfection of aircrafts will be ensured and no congestion at airports shall be allowed.
	(source: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), 29 May 2020).
What is the airlines cargo operational status?	Pakistan International airlines are operating flights to/from Pakistan (source: IATA, 17 August 2020).
IMMIGRATION and QUARANTINE	
What quarantine measures apply for travelers?	Those who are still allowed to travel to Pakistan will be subjected to health screenings on arrival. A completed International Passenger Health Declaration Form must be presented upon arrival. Passengers and airline crew are also subject to health screening (including swab testing, isolation or quarantine). From 21 March, passengers are required to provide a medical certificate stating the results of a COVID-19 test conducted 24 hours prior to boarding the flight. This will be requested at the point of disembarkation in Pakistan. Passengers will be subject to a minimum 48-hour state-monitored quarantine and required to take a COVID-19 test after 48 hours and the quarantine period can then be extended based on the results. Passengers are subject to quarantine for 14 days. (source: IATA, 20 July 2020). Emirate, Etihad, and Qatar airlines have announced that passengers departing from Pakistan will need to complete a COVID test before departure (source: Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre, 14 July 2020).
IMPORTATION and CUSTOMS PROCEDURES	

What importation procedures related to **taxes and duties** have been introduced?	A document of Best Practices in Pakistan Customs stated that the following measures have been put in place: • The government has **waived all duties and taxes** on the import of essential medicines and equipment necessary for containing and combating COVID-19. (source: Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue), 7 May 2020).
What measures have been introduced to facilitate the **smooth clearance** of goods related to COVID-19?	A document of Best Practices in Pakistan Customs stated that the following measures have been put in place: • 24/7 **clearance of Cargo** at Ports/Airports and land borders stations. Expeditious clearance of medicines, food items, and equipment pertaining to treatment of COVID-19 has been ensured. • A dedicated email has been created for single-contact facilitation to accommodate all trade related queries/grievances for redressal by the Customs Authorities; • The Federal and Provincial Government have also created a dedicated helpline for the general public as well as business; • The government has extended **date of filing for goods declarations** (GDs); • Customs authorities have been informed of the possible import/supply of counterfeit medical supplies and fake medicines in the wake of COVID-19. Actions taken in this regard will be shared using the common platform i.e. CEN.comm; • Staff rotation has been introduced in the wake of movement restrictions imposed by the Government. Staff are allowed to work from home to facilitate trade. (source: Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue), 7 May 2020).
What **border closure** measures apply (air, land, sea) that affect the importation of goods?	All humanitarian and commercial cargo movements are allowed at Customs ports but operating at lower efficiency. **Road and rail** Land transport is allowed but subject to disruptions due to increased border control (e.g.: sanitary measurements) and shortages (e.g.: limited number of truckers on duty). Cross-border road freight into Afghanistan is affected by serious delays and disruptions. **Shipping** Cargo shipping operations are ongoing. Cargo ships will be subjected to mandatory inspections. All vessels must submit mandatory documents 72 hours before arrival to Karachi Port and Bin Qasim Port (please see webste for more details) (source: Wilhelmsen, 27 June 2020).

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	Departure and arrival of vessel as per normal routine however Port terminals and CFS yards are operating with skeleton staff so some of the delays is expecting due to limited availability of staff (source: Bollore Logistics, 17 August 2020). **Iran** All Iranian border crossings with Pakistan are now open (Irainian government, 7 July) **Afghanistan** The Ministry of Interior announced a number of measures on 15 May 2020 at the Western Border with Afghanistan, at Torkham and Chaman BCPs: • Torkham border will remain open for 24 hours / six days a week (except Saturday) and an unlimited number of trucks will be allowed per day while ensuring proper SOPs and guidelines for both Afghan Bilateral Trade and Transit Trade. • Chaman border will remain open for six days a week (except Saturday) for specified timings (as already notified) and unlimited number of trucks will be allowed per day while ensuring proper SOPs and guidelines for both Afghan Bilateral Trade and Afghan Transit Trade. • Saturdays will be reserved for pedestrian movement only as per procedure already in place. Standard Quarantine Protocols / SOPs (as applicable for air passengers) will be implemented for pedestrians as well. • At Ghulam Khan (Khost) BCP border, importation and exportation of goods is allowed with some conditions. Transhipment applies for Afghan trucks and truck spraying procedures apply (see below). (Source: Ministry of Interior, 15 May 2020, various). Customs which are closed for commercial traffic (updated 6 August 2020): • Pathan (Paktia) BCP (Pakistan) negotiation is ongoing on how to manage import/exports and the BCP remains closed. • Urgon (Paktika) BCP (Pakistan) negotiation is ongoing on how to manage import/exports and the BCP remains closed.
What **other/general procedures** apply regarding the importation of goods relevant to humanitarian operators?	A document published by the Afghan Ministry of Income and Trade stated that: • Trucks are sprayed with disinfectant by Afghan Ministry of Health personal while arriving into Afghanistan; • After trucks are unloaded on the Afghanistan side to go back to Pakistan, the empty truck is sprayed by Pakistan Health authorities. (source: Afghan Ministry of Income and Trade, 28 March 2020).

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RESTRICTIONS to EXPORTS	
What **restrictions to export** certain goods apply in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Items that are banned from exportation: A Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) published by the Ministry of Commerce (SRO 239) stated that the following items of personal protective equipment have been banned from exportation: - Tyvek Suits - Disposable Gowns - Disposable Gloves - Face Shields - Surgical Masks - N 95 Masks - Biohazard Bags - Goggles - Shoe Covers - Hand Sanitizers The ban shall lapse upon the completion of the process of assessment of the baseline requirements of the country and stockpiling is to be notified to the government. (source: Ministry of Commerce, 24 March 2020). An SRO published by the Ministry of Commerce (SRO 297) stated that Pakistan has banned the export of anti-malarial drugs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SRO states that the product will be barred from exportation until further decisions of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on COVID-19. (source: Ministry of Commerce, 9 April 2020).
OTHER	
Has the country ratified Annex J-5 of the **Kyoto Convention**? If so, when?	Not ratified
Has the country ratified Annex B.9 of the **Istanbul Convention**? If so, when?	Not ratified
ASYCUDA user?	No
ASYREC user?	No

USEFUL LINKS

CIQP Bulletins for other countries are available here.

Country-specific:

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Government of Afghanistan – Ministry of Industry and Trade, [Mechanisms for unloading and loading commercial and transit goods (Dari) (28 March 2020)](#)

Government of Afghanistan – Ministry of Industry and Trade, [Mechanisms for unloading and loading commercial and transit goods (English) (28 March 2020)](#)

Government of Pakistan – Ministry of Commerce, [SRO 239 (24 March 2020)](#)

Government of Pakistan – Ministry of Commerce, [SRO 297 (9 April 2020)](#)

Government of Pakistan – Ministry of Interior, [Sealing of Western Border of Pakistan (15 May 2020)](#)

Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority, [News and Events](#)

Pakistan Customs (Federal Board of Revenue), [Best Practices (7 May 2020)](#)

Pakistan Federal Board of Review, [Correspondence during COVID-19 outbreak](#)

UN OCHA, [Pakistan: Situation Report as of 30 July 2020](#)

UNOCHA, [Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 (May 2020)](#)

Other links:

Agility, [Global Shipping Updates: COVID-19](#)

Bollore Logistics[, COVID-19 Impact Update](#)

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](#)

Wilhemnsen, [COVID-19 Global Port Restrictions Map](#)

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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 Customs Organization, World Health Organization, *List of priority medicines for customs during COVID-19 pandemic*

World Health Organization, *Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports*

World Trade Organization, *COVID-19: Trade and Trade-related measures*

If you have any questions / comments / additions, please contact:

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