

Bulletin nº 5 - CIQP: 18 June 2020

(Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

OBJECTIVE / OBJECTIF

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

Ce document fait le point sur le statut des aéroports et des points d'entrée des douanes pendant la pandémie de COVID-19.

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES AT THE GHRP'S DATE / NOMBRE DE CAS DE COVID-19 A LA DATE DU GHRP

72

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES ON 17 JUNE 2020 / NOMBRE DE CAS DE COVID-19 LE 17 JUIN 2020

9864

Latest update highlighted in yellow color.

COUNTRY BRIEF / COMPTE RENDU

Cameroon was included in the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP).

A number of **internal restrictions** have been imposed by the government and local authorities, including:

- Implementation of social distancing measures;
- No gathering of 50 or more people;
- Mandatory wearing of face masks in all public spaces;
- Only essential movement is allowed between urban centers;
- Checkpoints to be set up in urban and rural areas;
- Relaxation in restrictions: reopening of universities, restaurants and bars after 6 p.m.

(Information updated 18 June: Government of Cameroon)

AIRPORT STATUS / STATUT DES AEROPORTS

1. Airport / Flight restrictions

Flights to Cameroon are suspended.

- This does not apply to aircraft in state of emergency.
- This does not apply to humanitarian flights (medevac, repatriation flights).

(Information dated 2 June: IATA)

WFP has established a Passenger Service to support UN agencies, NGOs, WB and Diplomatic/Donor community, by providing air transport services within a network of strategically located hubs.

- On Thursdays: Abuja, Ndjamena, Niamey, Ouagadougou, Bamako, Bangui and Yaounde.
- On Saturdays: Abuja, Ndjamena, Niamey, Ouagadougou, Bamako, Bangui and Yaoundé.

Booking Deadlines: No booking accepted for flights scheduled to depart within 3 business days. More details on the <u>Humanitarian Booking Hub</u>.

(Information dated 18 June: WFP)

UNHAS flights recommenced 24 April 2020.

Heaful link

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

2. Passengers / Quarantine

Airline crew are subject to quarantine.



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(Information dated 2 June: IATA)

3. Airlines status

Useful link:

International Air Transport Association (IATA) and TACT, <u>Air Cargo Operations</u> Status, COVID-19

IMPORTATION AND CUSTOMS / IMPORTATION ET DOUANES

3. Customs, land, sea

All commercial borders are open to cargo movements. Land and sea freight are operating as normal. Foreign trade is continuing, in particular with the landlocked neighbors for which Cameroon serves as a transit country, without prejudice to conducting health checks on drivers.

(Information updated 18 June: UNECE)

Border status with neighboring countries:

- Central African Republic: Difficulties at the Cameroon's borders, activity
 is slowed down due to systematic testing of all crews/drivers
- Equatorial Guinea: All commercial borders are still open to cargo movements.
- Nigeria: Road cargo only open for humanitarian or essential items.
 Significative delays for cargo movements.
- **Republic of the Congo**: Borders remain open to freight.

(Information updated 18 June: Agility, Bollore Logistics and UNECE)

4. Customs, importation procedure

- Regarding the Customs treatment of supplies, materials and equipment normally used to combat COVID-19, the HS classification reference list suggested by the WCO Secretariat has been widely circulated within the Customs Administration, and attention has been drawn to the Customs facilities applicable at import. The Administration is planning to propose full exemption for all these goods, for the duration of this health crisis.
- Humanitarian assistance consignments are eligible for the following procedures: (i) immediate collection subject to lodging of a provisional declaration and security, (ii) pre-arrival completion of Customs formalities, with inspection on quayside/runway followed by immediate removal of the goods, and (iii) pre-arrival declaration procedure. Such consignments may benefit from duty and tax-free admission.



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- The following short-term measures are also envisaged:
 - Full deployment, across the entire national territory, of CAMCIS (Cameroon's new Customs Information System modelled on UNI-PASS, to replace ASYCUDA ++), which consolidates the automation of procedures and developments to establish a paperless system as is required for social distancing;
 - Relaxation of the requirement to provide certain commercial documents;
 - Suspension of the collection of interest on the late payment of Customs duties and taxes;
 - Identification of concerted actions to be taken with the national supply chain to ensure continuity of service if the Government implements lockdown measures.
- It is recommended that the exchange of administrative correspondence take place electronically, using the e-mail address: cab.douanes.cameroun (at) gmail.com.
- Regarding the admissibility of Customs declarations and eligibility for "removal of goods" operations, the requirement to provide certain commercial documents and accomplish certain procedures has been relaxed as follows:
 - Acceptance of documentation transmitted electronically (copies) in place of the originals, subject to regularization, where necessary;
 - Waiver of RVC (Value and Tariff Classification Report), subject to regularization, in cases where the relevant documentation cannot be made available to SGS by the supplier;
 - Acceptance of electronic invoices;
 - Acceptance of copies of the EUR1 Movement Certificate for the application of tariff preferences under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Cameroon and the European Union;
 - Acceptance of the release slip issued by the system instead of the original signed by the Collector, subject to regularization;
 - Suspension of the collection of interest on the late payment of Customs duties and taxes.

(Information dated 24 March: Directorate General of Customs)

- **5. Annex J-5 of the Revised Kyoto Convention:** Accepted on 18 November 2014.
- **6. Annex B.9 of the Istanbul Convention:** Not ratified.
- 7. ASYCUDA user: Yes.
- 8. ASYREC user: No.



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USEFUL LINKS / LIENS UTILES

CIQP Bulletins for other countries are available <u>here</u>.

Country-specific:

Cameroon Customs, Website

Directorate General of Customs, Measures on COVID-19

President Paul Biya, Measures on COVID-19

Republic of Cameroon: Presidency of the Republic, Website

OTHER LINKS

International Air Transport Association (IATA), <u>Government Measures Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)</u>

International Organization for Migration (IOM), Points of entry status

International SOS, Travel Restrictions, Flight Operations and Screening

Logistics Cluster, COVID-19 cargo entry points updates

United Nations, Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19

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

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

Wilhemnsen, COVID-19 Global Port Restrictions Map

World Customs Organization (WCO), <u>HS classification reference list for COVID-19 medical supplies (3.0.</u> edition)

World Customs Organization (WCO), <u>List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19</u>

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

World Health Organization (WCO), <u>Handbook for public health capacity-building at ground crossings</u> and cross-border collaboration

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

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