



IMPACCT

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

Mauritius- Oil Spill in the context of COVID-19

Bulletin n° 1 - CIQP : 7 August 2020

(Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

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 25 March 2020: **42**

Number of COVID-19 cases on 7 August 2020: **344**

COUNTRY BRIEF

The government of Mauritius has closed the country's air space to prevent and fight spread of the imported Covid-19 infection in Mauritius. The Mauritius Police Force has been mandated to ensure compliance with the conditions of the Sanitary Curfew. (Mauritius Revenue Authority, 16 April 2020)

On 6 August 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade alerted the international community to an imminent risk of oil spill of Tier 3 following the running aground of a bulk carrier vessel, MV Wakashio, on the reef of Pointe d'Esny in Mauritius.

IMPORTATION MEASURES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN	
Is there a Humanitarian Response Plan for the country?	No.
AIRPORT STATUS and FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS	
What is the status of international flights?	Passengers are not allowed to enter and transit in Mauritius until 31 August 2020. This does not apply to nationals or residents of Mauritius, their spouses and children. They are

¹ 25 March 2020 is the date of the first publication of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19. Mauritius is not included in the GHRP, however the GHRP is an indicator of the global situation.



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	<p>subject to quarantine. Airline crew are also subject to quarantine until their next flight. (IATA, 18 June 2020)</p> <p>Flights are prohibited to enter Mauritius from 12 June to 31 August except with an authorization from the Prime Minister. (ICAO, 15 June 2020)</p> <p>Considering the threat of the oil spill, the Civil Aviation may grant special landing permission for any relief flight as they have been doing for medical evacuation. (Civil Aviation Authority, 6 August 2020)</p>
What is the airlines cargo operational status?	<p>Cargo flights are allowed with a combination of cargo and passenger in cabin. (IATA TACT, 13 May 2020)</p> <p>Mauritius Airlines International does not have operational cargo status. (IATA TACT, 5 August 2020)</p>
IMMIGRATION and QUARANTINE	
What quarantine measures apply for travelers?	<p>All passengers are required to undergo a PCR test within 5 days of travel and to present same at check-in and on arrival.</p> <p>In Mauritius another PCR test is carried out and the result are obtained in less than 24 hours.</p> <p>Normally, passengers stay on a 14 days quarantine and further PCR test carried out on the 7th and 13th day if the quarantine period.</p> <p>Considering the threat of the oil spill, the authorities may waive the 14 day quarantine if the PCR test on arrival is negative. (Civil Aviation of Mauritius, 6 August 2020)</p>
What visa restriction measures apply?	<p>Holders of Laissez-passer issued by the United Nations, SADC or from other internationally recognized organizations are exempted from needing a visa. (Republic of Mauritius website visa portal, undated).</p>



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What curfew and lockdown measures apply?	Lockdown restrictions were lifted on 30 May. (WFP, 28 July 2020)
IMPORTATION and CUSTOMS PROCEDURES	
What importation procedures related to taxes and duties have been introduced?	Temporary elimination of VAT on imports of protective masks, breathing appliances and hand sanitizers (HS 6307.90.30; 9020.00.00; 3808.94.10); and goods (except furniture) to be used for the construction of purpose building for a residential care home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO, 16 April 2020)
What measures have been introduced to facilitate the smooth clearance of goods related to COVID-19?	<p>1. Activation of the Relief Consignment Mechanism MRA Customs is giving expedited release to relief consignments arriving by special chartered air flights. Goods cleared in this category include Covid-19 Test Kits, medicaments and pharmaceuticals, face masks, sanitizers, reagents and other goods of prime necessity. Moreover, clearance for essential goods such as basic necessities is being prioritised. In line with WCO recommended Best Practices, our national legislation makes provision for the treatment of Relief Consignments.</p> <p>2. Removal of duties and Taxes on PPEs VAT has been removed on hand sanitizers, protective masks, gloves, test kits, and other related medical equipment (taken effect since 24 March 2020)</p> <p>3. Waiver of penalties and interest for late payments: Given the lockdown prevailing in Mauritius, stakeholders who are unable to effect payment on or before the prescribed deadline under the Deferred Payment Scheme (DPS), were waived from payment of penalty or interest for late payment of Customs duty, excise duty and taxes. Storage charges have been waived for those stakeholders who have not been able to take delivery of their consignments during Sanitary Curfew and lock down.</p> <p>4. A communiqué has been published on MRA website and a communication line between Customs and external stakeholders has been established for the smooth running of</p>



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	<p>operations. Economic operators have been provided a common email address and a dedicated phone number to contact Customs at any time for any urgent issues: telephone number 5 259 6950, email address headoffice@mra.mu.</p> <p>5. Web-based submission of Customs declarations MRA Customs negotiated with the Service Provider to allow, free of charge, web-based access to the CMS by ALL economic operators transacting business with Customs. This initiative enables brokers/freight forwarders and other declarants to work from home. The Facilities for the electronic submission of Customs Declarations, including electronic payment of duties and taxes, are available on the CMS. (WCO, 16 April 2020)</p>
<p>What border closure measures apply (air, land, sea) that affect the importation of goods?</p>	<p>Sea ports: Prior to starting bunkering operations or provisions loading, harbor radio should contact master of vessel regarding health status of all crew members and inform health authority so that permission from health authority can be granted. (Wilhelmsen, 16 July 2020)</p>
<p>What measures relate to the opening/closing times of Customs offices?</p>	<p>The core services of Mauritius Revenue Authority Customs are operational at Custom House, Mer Rouge, PATS, Plaine Magnien and at the SSR International Airport, with a skeleton staff, in view of enabling the clearance of goods and outgoing passengers.</p> <p>MRA Customs at Plaine Corail in Rodrigues is also operational with a skeleton staff in view of providing the core services.</p> <p>Facilities for the electronic submission of Customs Declarations, including electronic payment of duties and taxes, are available on the Customs Management System. (Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 21 March 2020)</p>
<p>What other/general procedures apply regarding the importation of goods relevant to humanitarian operators?</p>	<p>No information available.</p>



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RESTRICTIONS to EXPORTS	
What restrictions to export certain goods apply in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	No information available.
OTHER	
Has the country ratified Annex J-5 of the Kyoto Convention ? If so, when?	Yes, on 24 September 2008.
Has the country ratified Annex B.9 of the Istanbul Convention ? If so, when?	Yes, signed without reservation or of deposit of instruments of ratification or accession on 7 July 1995.
ASYCUDA user?	No. However it uses the Customs Management System. (CMS)
ASYREC user?	No.

USEFUL LINKS

CIQP Bulletins for other countries are available [here](#).

Country-specific:

[Mauritius Revenue Authority COVID-19 Measures](#), 16 April 2020

[Official website](#) to track the evolution of COVID-19 in Mauritius

Other links:

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

Bollere 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](#)



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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](#)

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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