

**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**

**554**

**NUMBER OF  
COVID-19 CASES  
ON 29 JULY 2020  
/ NOMBRE DE CAS  
DE COVID-19 LE 29  
JUILLET 2020**

**452 530****COUNTRY BRIEF / COMPTE RENDU**

South Africa was not included in the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), with a Humanitarian Response Plan.

Everyone is required to wear a cloth face mask when in public. Failure to comply with South African government regulations could result in a fine or arrest.

South Africa has introduced a risk based, five-level approach to lockdown restrictions. On 1 June, South Africa moved to level 3 (from level 4). The level of restriction in place may differ by province and district. One should follow advice from the local authorities about what restrictions apply where they are.

(source: WFP, 29 June 2020).

**AIRPORT STATUS / STATUT DES AEROPORTS****1. Airport / Flight restrictions** (updated: 15 July 2020)

Flights to South Africa are suspended. This does not apply to repatriation, medevac and emergency flights, and flights authorized by the ministry of transport. Nationals and residents of South Africa are subject to medical screening and quarantine for 21 days. (Source: IATA, 12 June 2020)

Disembarkation of cargo crew is permitted and subject to quarantine. Pre-approved exchange of crew members operating in foreign countries are allowed in compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Johannesburg aeronautical rescue coordination center will be operating from a remote site. (Source: ICAO, 30 June 2020)

Information on cargo operations status by airline is available here: <https://www.tact-online.org/covid-19/carrier>

**2. Passengers / Quarantine** (updated: 15 July 2020)

Screening processes have been introduced at all major ports of entry, including airports, for arrivals, departures and transit passengers. Travelers should comply with any additional screening measures put in place by the authorities. Screening may include temperature measurements and check on recent travel to affected areas. Upon entering in South Africa travelers will be quarantined for 14 days in a state appointed facility. These are normally hotels, but may sometimes be state facilities. Travelers must wear a mask if using public transport, which will operate with strict hygiene requirements and reduced passenger numbers

The South African government requires travelers to complete a health form with their details on arrival, including address and contact information. Screening processes have been introduced at all major ports of entry, including airports, for arrivals, departures and transit passengers. Travelers should comply with any additional screening measures put in place by the authorities. Screening may include temperature measurements and check on recent travel to affected areas. If one feels unwell, they should not attempt to travel. Presenting at the airport with symptoms may result in being sent to a government health facility for quarantine and further testing. Travelers will need to fill out a health form from the South African government.

(source: Health Department of South Africa, 5 June 2020)

**3. Airlines Cargo Operations status** (updated: 15 July 2020)



Cargo flights are allowed with a combination of cargo and passengers in cabin. The President has announced that South Africa will move to Level 3 national lockdown measures from 1 June 2020. As a result, most commercial activity will resume with restrictions on public gatherings and entertainment outlets etc.

There will also be limited domestic flights for business travel only, however commercial international flights are still restricted. Cargo is still moving via airfreight, however capacity is constrained and limited to freighter flights only.

The government has also restricted export of essential goods, such as masks, sanitizer and vaccines etc. Export of these items requires an export permit from Department of Trade and Industry. Domestic road freight is also facing significant delays due to roadblocks and the varied interpretations of existing regulations.

Useful link: Department of Trade Industry and Competition, [Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Further Economic and Social Measures in Response the Covid-19 Epidemic](#)

(Source: IATA TACT, undated.)

## **IMPORTATION AND CUSTOMS / IMPORTATION ET DOUANES**

### **3. Customs, land, sea** (updated: 15 July 2020)

#### **Sea ports:**

Vessels arriving from international ports are not allowed to enter any seaports in South Africa unless it has been communicated to Port Health prior to arrival. Ports are operational, but working with a reduced workforce and berths.

All vessels that have undertaken an international voyage must apply for Free Pratique to Port Health 24-48 hours prior to arriving at port.

A declaration of any crew who joined the vessel from any high or medium risk country and the transit points they went through and stowaways is required.

All passenger vessels are prohibited from disembarking any passengers or crew at any of South African sea ports.

No crew change allowed except for crew change for South African seafarers and evacuation. Masters, Seafarers and Ship Operators are to ensure that each individual seafarer, wishing to join or sign off a vessel completes a Crew Health Self-Declaration & Daily Temperature Records.

Masters, Seafarers and Ship Operators are to ensure that each individual seafarer, wishing to join or sign off a vessel completes a Crew Health Self-Declaration & Daily Temperature Records. Evacuation of seafarers and passengers on board all ships along the South African coastline will be allowed in terms of Search and Rescue as well as the Merchant Shipping Act, 1957 (Act No. 57 of 1957) and subject to the following: (i) The evacuation must comply with the provisions of Medical Evacuations as contained in the South African Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue Act, 2002 (Act No. 44 of 2002) ; (ii) The evacuation to be carried out in terms of the approved Standard Operating Procedures for evacuation as contained in the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center Manual obtainable from the South African Maritime Safety Authority website; and (iii) All evacuated patients will be subjected to mandatory quarantine for a period of up to 21 days.



All other cargo vessels will be allowed into all the sea ports for purposes of cargo works, replenishing fuel and provisions.

The following sea ports are open for purposes of handling cargo, refuelling and ship supplies: Richards Bay; Durban; East London; Coega; Port Elizabeth; Mosselbay; Cape Town; -Saldanha Bay. No shore leave permitted.

(Source: Wilhelmsen, 14 July 2020)

**Land Borders:**

Land borders to neighbouring countries are closed except for trade. Cross-border road freight to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and The Democratic Republic of Congo are moving with some delays due to capacity and at the borders. Slight delays for cross-border road freights. (Agility, 13 July 2020)

All movement of goods within South Africa allowed. All movement of goods for Import and Export allowed, except tobacco products. Cross border transportation of all goods allowed. (Bollore Logistics, undated)

**4. Customs, importation procedures** (updated:

**Airport operations:** Terminals operating normally for cargo but with reduced manpower impacting efficiency. Freighters flying as normal.

**Port operations:** Ports operating normally but with lower efficiency due to manpower reduction. (Agility, 13 July 2020)

**Measures aiming to Facilitate the Cross-border Movement of Relief and Essential Supplies:**

Essential/emergency goods are prioritised for facilitation across borders. Member states (SACU) and neighbours have shared their list of essential goods. All movements are considered within the existing domestic lockdown regulations. All ports of entry operating hours have been shared. Risk measures in place to combat smuggling and abuse of rebate item provisions. Risk measures in place to combat smuggling and facilitation measures in place to alleviate port congestion. (WCO/South Africa Revenue Authority, 7 May 2020)

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

**6. Annex B.9 of the Istanbul Convention:** Signed 18 May 2004 without reservation.

**7. ASYCUDA user:** No.

**8. ASYREC user:** No.

**USEFUL LINKS / LIENS UTILES**

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

**Country-specific:**



South Africa Revenue Service, [COVID-19 Tax Measures](#)

South Africa Government Website, [Coronavirus Procedures](#)

South Africa Department of Health, [International Trade Administration Act: Regulations: Coronavirus COVID-19 Export Control](#)

South Africa Department of Health, [International Air Services Act: Regulations: COVID-19 restrictions on the movement of air travel](#)

South Africa Department of Health, [Disaster Management Act: Regulations](#)

South Africa Department of Health, [Competition Act: Expansion: Scope of COVID-19 block exemption for health care sector](#)

**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](#)

World Customs Organization, [COVID-19 -WCO-WHO Cooperation](#)

Wilhemssen, [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, [List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary import support \(lowering or waiving of direct and indirect duties and taxes\) 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](#)



**IMPACCT**

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

# COVID-19 [South Africa]

**Bulletin n°1 – CIQP : 29 July 2020**

(Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

[If you have any questions / comments / additions, please contact:](#)

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