



**IMPACCT**

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

# COVID-19 Bangladesh

**Bulletin n° 6 - CIQP : 18 August 2020**

(Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

Latest updates highlighted in **yellow**.

## 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: 39**

**Number of COVID-19 cases on 16 August 2020: 274,525**

## COUNTRY BRIEF

Bangladesh was included in the United Nations’ 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), with no specific response plan; under ‘Other’. A needs analysis and gaps analysis were conducted and a response approach will be implemented.

*“Given the highly congested conditions in all of the refugee camps in Bangladesh, and the high levels of vulnerabilities among the population, the severity of the possible impact of the virus on refugees is of major concern.”*

Internal government-imposed restrictions have been further extended. Under the new traffic light system, the Government has classified Cox’s Bazar town as a red zone and placed specific lockdown restrictions on the area. Access to the Rohingya camps via Cox’s Bazar town is affected. The government has asked people to stay at home from 10 pm until 5 am. Outside these hours, the Government has instructed that people should only leave their homes if there is an urgent need. There are ongoing restrictions of movement between districts. Domestic flights on Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet and Syedpur routes have been operational since June 1.

Bangladesh is experiencing disasters including floods and landslides in July 2020, for more information please see the dedicated [disaster page](#).

## IMPORTATION MEASURES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<b>GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN</b>	
Is there a Humanitarian Response Plan for the country?	No, but Bangladesh is included in the 2020 GHRP under ‘Other Appeals’.



<b>AIRPORT STATUS and FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS</b>	
What is the status of international flights?	<p>Flights to Bangladesh are suspended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This does not apply to flights arriving from China (People's Rep.), Malaysia, Maldives, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United Arab Emirates or the United Kingdom.</li> <li>• This does not apply to humanitarian, repatriation and evacuation flights.</li> </ul> <p>(source: IATA, 3 August 2020)</p>
What is the airlines cargo operational status?	Flights are available through Bangladesh Biman airlines. More information can be found on the Bangladesh Biman <a href="#">website</a> .
<b>IMMIGRATION and QUARANTINE</b>	
What quarantine measures apply for travelers?	<p>Passengers are subject to medical screening and quarantine.</p> <p>(source: IATA, 3 August 2020)</p>
What visa restrictions/other measures apply?	<p>Visa on arrival facilities remain suspended. This does not apply to passengers traveling on business with a return/onward ticket. They must have a confirmation letter issued by the Bangladesh Board of Investment (BOI). The letter must contain a BOI registration number. The accredited inviting organization must notify the Immigration authorities prior to arrival.</p> <p>Passengers with a visa must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 test result issued at most 72 hours before departure. This does not apply to passengers with a diplomatic or an official passport and their family members, passengers with a Laissez-Passer and their family members or passengers younger than 10 years.</p> <p>Procedures at the airport apply including physical distancing and disinfectant procedures.</p> <p>A completed "Health Declaration Form" must be presented upon arrival.</p> <p>(source: IATA, 3 August 2020)</p>
<b>IMPORTATION and CUSTOMS PROCEDURES</b>	
What measures have been introduced to facilitate the <b>smooth clearance</b> of goods related to COVID-19?	<p>Importation procedure:</p> <p>As per a notice issued by the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) on 31 March 2020, the following certificates should be submitted at the time of requesting a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for imported PPE/Medical items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Sales Certificate (FSC);</li> <li>• CE Marking Certificate;</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificates: ISO-13485 and ISO-9001-2015;</li> <li>• Certificate of Analysis (COA);</li> <li>• For PPE Production and Quality Control must follow WHO-PAHO Guideline/Specification;</li> <li>• Required Treasury Challan Form (Original Challan BDT 2000.00 Tk. and 15% VAT on Original Challan= BDT 300.00 Tk.);</li> <li>• After clearance of Imported Cargo, 02x Sample copies of each item must be submitted to Directorate General of Drug Administration to receive “Utilization Certificate”;</li> <li>• Without “Utilization Certificate” cleared Import cargos (Medicines and Medical Devices) are not allowed to supply and use.</li> </ul> <p>However, Logistics and Procurement Pillar members requested DGHS to simplify the clearance process for the COVID-19 crisis. Various Customs orders are in place in Bangladesh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An office order has been issued to continue customs activities on a limited scale in all customs offices during the lockdown so as to release medicine, medical equipment, foods, etc.</li> <li>• An office order has been issued to accept documents in soft copy when assessing goods imported from China. It is under consideration for other Countries as well.</li> <li>• All Customs officers are ordered to stay in their respective customs Stations/ Houses to address any emergency situation.</li> <li>• All customs Stations/Houses have also taken initiatives to alert their staff to follow the guidelines of WHO, while working in the desk and/or dealing with the stakeholders at the port or/and the airport.</li> </ul> <p>(source: WCO, 3 April 2020)</p>
<p>What <b>border closure</b> measures apply (air, land, sea) that affect the importation of goods?</p>	<p>All Customs points are operational with limited scale as there are a limited number of truckers and Customs officers on duty. Priority is given to the clearance of food, medicine and medical equipment.</p> <p>(source: Bollore Logistics, 18 August 2020)</p> <p>At Dhaka and Chittagong ports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Airports, terminals are operating as normal for cargo and freighters are flying at normal but capacity is constrained;</li> <li>• Sea ports are open for cargo but operating at lower efficiency due to manpower reductions;</li> <li>• Road networks are operating as normal within cities, however reintroduction of restrictions after the ‘traffic light system’ zoning of areas is expected to have some impact on business and traffic movement. Road cargo movement between cities is normal.</li> </ul>



	<p>(source: Agility, undated)</p> <p>At Chittagong port</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chittagong port handles roughly 80% of all imports into the country and has been experiencing severe delays. This is in part due to the lack of availability of equipment operators and other staff due to limitations to public transportation.</li> <li>• Feeder frequencies inbound/outbound has become irregular.</li> <li>• Chittagong Port Authority has reduced the frequencies of feeders; the current estimated berthing time and average berthing delay 12-13 days.</li> <li>• Import yard at port has become congested and overloaded with huge number of Canters which is more than the port capacity. The source of congestion is due to limited import delivery.</li> </ul> <p>(source: Bollore Logistics, 18 August 2020)</p>
<b>OTHER</b>	
Has the country ratified Annex J-5 of the <b>Kyoto Convention</b> ? If so, when?	27 September 2012
Has the country ratified Annex B.9 of the <b>Istanbul Convention</b> ? If so, when?	Not ratified
ASYCUDA user?	Yes
ASYREC user?	No

### USEFUL LINKS

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

#### **Country-specific:**

Agility, [Country Updates: Bangladesh](#)

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, [Suspension of Commercial Scheduled Domestic Passenger Flight Operation \(5 May 2020\)](#)

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, [Suspension of Schedule International Flights To/From Bangladesh \(5 May 2020\)](#)



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Director General of Drug Administration, [NOC application for Medicines and Medical Equipment used to treat COVID-19](#)

Government of Bangladesh, [National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, Bangladesh](#)

[Logistics Cluster, Operation Overview – Bangladesh \(17 August 2020\)](#)

[National Board of Revenue, SRO 184/2020](#)

WFP, [Bangladesh Country Brief \(April 2020\)](#)

World Customs Organization, [Bangladesh Best Practices \(3 April 2020\)](#)

## **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](#)

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](#)



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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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