



### 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

2

NUMBER OF  
COVID-19  
CASES ON 18  
JUNE 2020  
/ NOMBRE DE  
CAS DE COVID-  
19 LE 18 JUIN  
2020

67

### COUNTRY BRIEF / COMPTE RENDU

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

### AIRPORT STATUS / STATUT DES AEROPORTS

#### 1. Airport / Flight restrictions (updated 1 June 2020)

Bhutan has closed its borders with neighbouring countries and flight operations are significantly reduced.

(source: WFP, 1 June 2020).

#### 2. Passengers / Quarantine (updated 1 June 2020)

All travelers, including Bhutanese nationals, who are permitted to enter the country are subject to mandatory quarantine in a facility for 21 days (source: WFP, 1 June 2020).

The visa on arrival procedure is suspended. Passengers with a visa, work permit or other immigration permits issued by Bhutan and airline crew are not allowed to enter Bhutan if they arrive from or have visited or transited through a COVID-19-affected country. Airline crew are subject to thermal screening on arrival. (source: IATA, 20 April 2020).

### IMPORTATION AND CUSTOMS / IMPORTATION ET DOUANES

#### 3. Customs, land, sea (updated 7 May 2020)

A number of operational measures have been undertaken. This includes:

- Zero-contact Customs clearance procedures have been established at land borders where consignments and goods are brought into the country in foreign transport vehicles with foreign drivers;
- Health measures have been put in place by the government to contain the spread of COVID-19 across land borders through Customs entry points.

(Source: Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs, 7 May 2020).

#### 4. Customs, importation procedure (updated 7 May 2020)

The Government of Bhutan signed an **agreement** with the United Nations concerning measures to expedite the import, export and transit of relief consignments and possession of relief personnel in the event of disasters and emergencies.

(source: Government of Bhutan, 8 August 2011).

A **notice** from the Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs stated that changes have been made to normal importation procedures, under the 'Relief of Duty and Taxes' section, and under Section 47 and 75 of the Customs Act of Bhutan, 2017. The government has committed to the following measures:

- **Ensuring an uninterrupted supply** of essential goods into the country, and that smooth cross-border business/trade transactions are maintained without hindrance.



- **Fast track clearance** of all essential cargo relating to COVID-19 such as testing kits, Personal Protective Equipment, Ventilators, Hand sanitizers, medicines and other equipment.
- Clearances of relief consignments and donations based on government directives.
- The government has **deferred the payment of Customs duties** and taxes by three months from April 2020 to June 2020, for identified importers importing essential goods categorized as basic necessities.

(source: Department of Revenue and Customs, 7 May 2020).

The contact points for the main border-crossing points are as follows:

**Contact point for Paro International Airport:**

Mr. Ugyen Tshering  
Regional Director, Regional Revenue and Customs Office, Paro, Bhutan.  
utshering@mof.gov.bt  
PABX: +975-08-272831 / 272832, Fax: +975-08-272830

**Contact point for Land border Customs station:**

Ms. Bumpa Lhamo  
Joint Commissioner, Head of Customs and Excise Section, Regional Revenue and Customs Office, Phuentsholing Bhutan.  
blhamo@mof.gov.bt  
PABX: +975-05-252356 / 252237 / 252253, Fax: +975-05-252224

For detailed contact addresses, please visit: <http://portal.drc.gov.bt/drc/node/100>.

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

**6. Annex B.9 of the Istanbul Convention:** Not ratified

**7. ASYCUDA user:** No

**8. ASYREC user:** No

**USEFUL LINKS / LIENS UTILES**

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

**Country-specific:**

*Bhutan Department of Revenue and Customs, [Zero contact Customs clearance procedure \(7 May 2020\)](#)*

*Bhutan Ministry of Finance, [Department of Revenue and Customs webpage](#)*

*Bhutan Ministry of Finance, [Webpage](#)*

*Government of Bhutan, [Customs Facilitation Agreement with the United Nations](#)*

*WFP, [Bhutan Country Brief \(30 April 2020\)](#)*



**IMPACCT**

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

# COVID-19 [Bhutan]

**Bulletin n°1 – CIQP : 19 June 2020**

(Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

## **General:**

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

*International Air Transport Association (IATA), [Coronavirus Outbreak – Update](#)*

*International Air Transport Association, [Government Measures Related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)*

*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](#)*

*Wilhelmsen, [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 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:](#)

<p><b>Ms. Jenifer ELMSLIE</b> UNOCHA, Geneva <a href="mailto:jenifer.elmslie@un.org">jenifer.elmslie at un.org</a></p>	<p><b>Ms. Virginie BOHL</b> UNOCHA, Geneva <a href="mailto:bohl@un.org">bohl at un.org</a></p>
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