

# Bulletin n°2 - CIQP: 13 July 2020

(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

3

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES ON 12 JULY 2020 / NOMBRE DE CAS DE COVID-19 LE 12 JUILLET 2020

330

Latest updates highlighted in yellow.

## **COUNTRY BRIEF / COMPTE RENDU**

Myanmar was included in the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), with a Humanitarian Response Plan. The plan took note of major restrictions in the country:

"The situation in Myanmar is precarious. Going forward, existing **access restrictions**... will likely persist. Other challenges include limited medical supplies, insufficient health staff, and crowded IDP camps where the virus could spread rapidly."

The government has imposed a number of restrictions on residents. A curfew is in place in various regions at varying times including Mandalay, Sagaing and Yangon regions. A stay at home order is in place in Yangon, where restrictions include: residents must remain at their homes unless they are essential workers and the wearing of face masks is required. Domestic flights have gradually resumed operations from 1 May 2020. Gatherings of more than five people for non-essential purposes are banned. Government employees, factory workers and emergency healthcare workers are exempt from the order. Restaurants and bars are slowly reopening with social distancing measures in place.

## AIRPORT STATUS / STATUT DES AEROPORTS

1. Airport / Flight restrictions (updated 29 June 2020).

All inbound international passenger and commercial flights into Myanmar are suspended until a further extended deadline of 31 July 2020. This does not apply to:

- Relief flights;
- Medical evacuation flights;
- Special flights approved by the Department of Civil Aviation.

(source: IATA, 29 June 2020).

## 2. Passengers / Quarantine (updated 29 June 2020).

All types of visa except for diplomats residing in Myanmar and airline/shipping industry professionals are suspended (including e-visas and visas on arrival), this restriction has been extended until 31 July 2020. From 15 April, those still allowed to enter Myanmar must complete a 21-day quarantine in a quarantine centre and seven days in self-isolation at their residence. They must have a valid COVID-19 test within 72 hours of their arrival. They must enter through Mandalay, Naypyitaw or Yangon International Airports. This mandatory quarantine applies to Myanmar flight crew including crew on relief flights, cargo flights, medical evacuation flights and special flights.

Foreign travellers coming from or who have been to Hubei province of China or Daegu city and North Gyeongsang province of South Korea in the past 14 days are barred from entry. Myanmar nationals returning from these locations will be quarantined for 14 days at government quarantine facilities.

(source: various, WFP, 29 June 2020).

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

3. Customs, land, sea (info updated 29 June 2020)



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### Sea freight:

Port operations are functioning normally, with 1-2 day delays in vessel berthing. There is no impact on shipping-lines operations.

In terms of shipping restrictions for vessels whose previous port call was from COVID-19 high-risk countries:

- Crew change is permitted for Myanmar nationals as well as other nationalities under the condition that their respective embassies submit a request to the Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Quarantine procedures will be enforced for signed off crew in a designated quarantine hotel for 21 days.
- Shore leave is not permitted.

At Yangon port, for vessels whose last port call was in China, port health officers will board the vessel on arrival as the first party for screening. Crew will fill and sign a health declaration card on arrival. Those who have visited Italy, Iran, France, Spain and Germany will be quarantined for 14 days at a special care hospital for COVID-19. Yangon Regional Government has now imposed a curfew from 10 pm to 4am until further notice; trucks are unable to operate on the road and there may be delays in cargo discharging for direct delivery vessels.

(Wilhelmsen, 6 May 2020; 29 June 2020).

At Yangon Seaport, there are no restrictions on sea cargo imports or exports in Myanmar.

#### **At Land Border Points:**

- Thailand-Myanmar: Truck and Customs operations are as normal at Myawaddy.
- China-Myanmar: a reduced number of trucks are operating at the Muse border crossing point and only cargo trucks are allowed to cross the border. Drivers who are from Myanmar must wait at transit points for Chinese drivers to take over the truck for off-loading of cargo. Customs are operating as normal.
- India-Myanmar: Tamu border crossing point remains closed.

(WFP, 7 May 2020).

Land borders with Bangladesh, China, India, Laos and Thailand are closed until further notice, however these borders remain open for trade/cargo movement, excluding the restriction(s) listed above.

Truck operations are delayed due to curfew measures. There are truck driver shortages due to curfews and quarantines imposed by regional and state governments.

(International SOS, undated).

## 4. Customs, importation procedure (updated 6 July 2020)

Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) lifted the fee requirement to obtain an import license for pharmaceutical raw materials used to manufacture medicines and medicinal equipment on 12 April 2020.

(source: MOC, 12 April 2020).



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Effective 1 April 2020, 91 import HS codes and 73 export HS codes temporarily do not require import / export licenses.

### Changes to **importation procedural requirements**:

- According to an update on 7 May, at Yangon Seaport during the COVID-19 response period, Customs Departments have allowed processing with colour-scanned copies of documents instead of original documents. The documents this applies to includes Form D / Form E, B/L and other commercial documents for time being. Originals documents must be presented within one month or once courier services from overseas resume. Failure to do so results in duties, taxes and penalties;
- Customs have reduced the number of documents which must be attached to import and export declarations when using electronic *Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System* (MACCS);
- The MOC now allows on-line import and export license applications for more HS codes.
- Some manual processes have been suspended and most shipments are assigned to the yellow channel, meaning that they are subject to fewer inspections.

(source: WFP, various).

WFP flights to Yangon are available on Sunday 12, 19 and 26 July 2020. Flights between Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Vientiane (Laos) and Yangon (Myanmar), and can be booked on the Humanitarian Booking Hub.

(source: Humanitarian Booking Hub).

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:

Government of Myanmar, <u>Ministry of Commerce Announcement (Burmese) (12 April 2020)</u> (description: Myanmar Ministry of Commerce's lifting of import license fees for raw materials to manufacture medicines/medicinal equipment)

OCHA, Myanmar: COVID-19 - Situation Report No. 06 (29 June 2020)

WFP, Myanmar COVID-19 Situation Report #07 (26 June 2020)

WFP, Myanmar Country Brief (31 May 2020)



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#### General:

Agility, Global Shipping Updates: COVID-19

International Air Transport Association (IATA), <u>Coronavirus Outbreak – Update</u>

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, COVID-19 WCO Updates

World Customs Organization, HS classification reference list for COVID-19 medical supplies (3rd edition)

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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