



### 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

522

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

54,222

Latest updates highlighted in **yellow**.

### COUNTRY BRIEF / COMPTE RENDU

The Philippines was included in the May update of the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP).

On 25 March 2020, a **State of National Emergency** by Presidential Proclamation (No. 922, s. 2020) was issued by law. This declared "a *State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the Code Alert System for COVID-19 was raised to Code Red Sublevel Two*". The law gives the President extraordinary powers to necessitate and carry out the declared national policy.

A number of **internal restrictions** have been imposed by the government and local authorities. At least 82 different localities have imposed differing restrictions and quarantine measures. Various cities remain under an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and others are under a 'modified' ECQ. Restrictions include movement limitations, mandatory wearing of face masks, nightly curfews, and the prohibition of mass gatherings. Curfews have been put in place by local governments, these differ in various regions.

### AIRPORT STATUS / STATUT DES AEROPORTS

#### 1. Airport / Flight restrictions (updated 18 June 2020)

At least nine airports nationwide have suspended all international and domestic passenger flights after a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) was issued. These include:

- Mactan-Cebu International Airport;
- Clark International Airport;
- Francisco Bangoy International Airport;
- Iloilo International Airport;
- Kalibo International Airport;
- Zamboanga International Airport;
- Laoag International Airport;
- Puerto Princesa International Airport.

Inbound international flights to Ninoy Aquino International Airport will resume in a limited capacity from 11 May. Domestic flights at the airport remain suspended, as well as domestic flights in Clark and Mactan-Cebu International Airports.

Exemptions include emergencies while en-route, cargo flights, air ambulances and medical supplies flights, weather mitigation flights, maintenance flights as well as repatriation flights. Outbound flights are still available upon approval from the CAAP.

(source: IATA, 18 June 2020; ICAO, June 2020; CAAP, 3 May 2020).

#### 2. Passengers / Quarantine (updated 18 June 2020)

The issuance of visas and visa-free services for all foreign travellers is suspended. Effective 22 March 2020, foreign nationals will be temporarily banned from entering the Philippines. Passengers under the following **visa categories** are **not allowed to enter** the Philippines:

- Passengers under Visa Waiver Agreements or with Special Visas.
- Passengers who fall under Executive Order No.408, s1960 (EO408);
- Passengers with a Hong Kong (SAR China) passport, Macao (SAR China) passport, Macao-Portuguese, and British National Overseas passports.



- Immigrant and non-Immigrant visa holders (i.e. 13, 9D, 9F, 9G, 47a (2), etc.)

This does not apply to previously issued visas that have been issued to foreign spouses and children of Filipino nationals, foreign government and International Organization officials whose visas were issued by the Philippines government or foreign crew members.

Exemptions will be granted to overseas Filipino workers, Philippine passport holders and foreign spouses of Filipino citizens, as well as foreign crew members.

All Filipino citizens returning from areas where there is community-based COVID-19 transmission will have to undergo a 14-day mandatory quarantine period at designated facilities.

(source: IATA, 18 June 2020; ICAO, June 2020; CAAP, 3 May 2020).

### **3. Airlines cargo Operations status** (updated 12 July 2020).

AirAsia are flying domestic flights in the Philippines from 5 June 2020. More information can be found on the [airline website](#) (source: IATA, 12 June 2020).

Philippine Airlines are flying domestic and international flights from 1 July 2020 onwards, subject to local government restrictions. More information can be found on the [airline website](#) (source: IATA, 12 July 2020).

More information can be found through the Pacific Logistics Cluster's [list of airlines operating in the Pacific](#) (source: Logistics Cluster, 13 July 2020).

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

### **4. Customs, land, sea** (updated 10 July 2020)

Due to [Republic Act No. 11469](#), the President has the power to adopt the following temporary emergency measure to respond to the crisis:

- (Section 4 (r)) Regulate and limit the operation of all sectors of transportation through land, sea or air, whether private or public.

(source: Congress of the Philippines, 25 March 2020).

On 16 April 2020, the Philippines Port Authorities (PPA) reconfirmed that ports under its purview shall remain open in the entire duration of the “enhance community quarantine” being imposed in the entire Luzon region, provided that there will be strict ‘no embarkation/disembarkation of crew’ and subject to the requirements of the Bureau of Quarantine and the Department of Health. PPA also issued guidelines to facilitate the functioning of transports and logistics network.

(source: Philippines Port Authorities, 16 April 2020).

#### **At Cebu ports:**

- Airport: terminals are operating normally for cargo, but with reduced manpower impacting efficiency. No freighters are flying due to government restrictions;
- Ports: operating normally but with lower efficiency due to manpower reduction;
- Roads: normal within city limits and normal cargo movement between cities;



- Customs: Some impact; Customs are operating at lower capacity due to manpower reductions or other restrictions.

**At Davao ports:**

- Airport: terminals are operating normally for cargo, but with reduced manpower impacting efficiency. No freighters are flying due to government restrictions;
- Ports: operating normally but with lower efficiency due to manpower reduction;
- Roads: normal within city limits and normal cargo movement between cities;
- Customs: Some impact; Customs are operating at lower capacity due to manpower reductions or other restrictions.

**At Manila ports:**

- Airport: terminals are operating normally for cargo, but with reduced manpower impacting efficiency. Freighters are flying as normal but are constrained;
- Ports: operating but some depots are closed or there are restrictions in place;
- Roads: normal within city limits and normal cargo movement between cities;
- Customs: Significant impact - Customs are only operating for essential goods and relief cargo.

(source: Agility, undated).

Berthing delays average 1.5 days. In Manila North, berthing delays are on average 0.36 days. In Manila South, berthing delays are on average 1.19 days. Import and export facilities at Manila are partially closed, causing yard congestions.

(source: Logistics Cluster, 8 June 2020).

**Further health and safety restrictions apply at ports:**

- Ships are subjected to health checks and may be subjected to quarantine time. Shore leave is not permitted at ports. Crew change is allowed for Filipino crew in Manila port only, to embark on foreign/international vessels and disembark;
- Restrictions apply for all vessels coming from China and other countries affected by COVID-19 as declared by the WHO. This includes the limitation of unnecessary movements outside the vessel, daily temperature checks, an advanced copy of ship's Port of Call, a voyage memo must be given to all port authorities, and the banning of docking of such cruise ships if any passenger has visited China or its SARs within 14 days.

(source: Wilhelmsen, 10 July 2020).

**5. Customs, importation procedure** (updated 30 June 2020)

According to Republic Act No. 11469, the President has the power to adopt the following temporary emergency measures to respond to the crisis:

- (Section 4 (j)) “Ensure that donation, acceptance and distribution of health products intended to address the COVID-19 public health emergency are **not unnecessarily delayed** and that health products for donation duly certified by the regulatory agency or their accredited third party from countries with established regulation shall automatically be cleared: Provided, that this shall not



apply to health products which do not require a certification or clearance from Food and Drug Administration (FDA)”

- (Section 4 (o)) “Liberalize the grant of incentives for the manufacture or importation of **critical or needed equipment** or supplies for the carrying-out of the policy declared herein, including healthcare equipment and supplies: Provided, that importation of these equipment and supplies shall be **exempt from import duties, taxes and other fees**”;
- (Section 4 (p)) “Ensure the **availability of essential goods**, in particular food and medicine, by adopting measures as may reasonably be necessary to facilitate and/or minimize disruption to the supply chain, especially for basic commodities and services to the maximum extent possible.”

(source: Congress of the Philippines, 25 March 2020).

A previous Administrative Order (No. 07-2020) issued on 30 March 2020 by the Philippines Department of Finance had exempted the imports of certain health equipment and supplies from all taxes, fees, and charges levied by the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) and from Value Added Tax (VAT), for three months from the act until 30 June. The order is no longer applicable.

The tax exemption is also available on imports of materials by certain manufacturers for the production of health equipment and supplies.

(source: Department of Finance, 30 March 2020).

**6. Annex J-5 of the Revised Kyoto Convention:** Ratified 25 June, 2010

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

**8. ASYCUDA user:** Yes

**9. ASYREC user:** No

## **USEFUL LINKS / LIENS UTILES**

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

### **Country-specific:**

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

Congress of the Philippines, [Republic Act No. 11469, 25 March 2020](#)

Government of the Philippines – Department of Customs, [Customs Administrative Order 07-2020 \(30 March 2020\)](#)

Philippine Port Authorities, [PPA issues guidelines for unhampered cargo movements amid the Luzon-wide quarantine](#)

Relief Web, [Covid-19 Response Plan: Philippines Humanitarian Country Team](#)



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# COVID-19 [the Philippines]

**Bulletin n°5 – CIQP : 13 July 2020**

(Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

## **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](#)

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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