

**IMPACCT**

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

COVID-19 [Sri Lanka]

Bulletin n°3 – CIQP : 23 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

102

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES ON 22 JULY 2020 / NOMBRE DE CAS DE COVID- 19 LE 22 JUILLET 2020

2,730

Latest updates highlighted in **yellow**.

COUNTRY BRIEF / COMPTE RENDU

Sri Lanka was not included in the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP).

Internal restrictions have been imposed by the government. The government has removed curfew measures. The reopening of Colombo Airport is delayed indefinitely, after repatriation flights were suspended due to a spike in infections. Cruise ship passengers will not be allowed to disembark in the country, including temporary disembarkation.

AIRPORT STATUS / STATUT DES AEROPORTS

1. Airport / Flight restrictions (updated 15 July 2020).

As of a communication published by the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka on 4 April 2020 for all airlines, all carriers are informed that all international Airports in Sri Lanka will continue to be closed for the operation of inbound international commercial passenger flights (i.e. arrivals) until further notice. During the period, the following will be permitted:

- Aircraft departures with passengers originating from Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), stop overs, transit passengers or visiting tourists.
- Emergency diversions to BIA.
- Freighter operations and humanitarian flights to BIA.
- Technical landings at BIA.
- Inbound ferry flights (without passengers) at BIA.

Otherwise, outbound flights, technical landings, transits, freight and emergency flights will continue to operate exclusively from Bandaranaike International Airport. Maximum transit time is five hours and passengers must have a confirmed onward connection. These restrictions remain in place for all countries until further notice.

Airport closure restrictions do not apply to humanitarian flights to Colombo (CMB).

(source: Sri Lanka Civil Aviation Authority, 4 April 2020; IATA, 15 July 2020).

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

A completed Health Declaration Form must be presented to public health inspectors or other authorized officials upon arrival. Visas and ETAs issued by Sri Lanka have been invalidated.

Airline crew must self-quarantine at the location mentioned in the Health Declaration Form and have meals only through in-room dining until they operate the next flight. They must follow strict procedures and hygienic measures adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka including thermal scanning, health declaration forms and wearing a mask.

Passengers and airline crew are subject to medical screening.

(source: Sri Lanka Civil Aviation Authority, 4 April 2020; IATA, 15 July 2020).

IMPORTATION AND CUSTOMS / IMPORTATION ET DOUANES

3. Customs, land, sea (updated 14 July 2020).



According to a best practices update published to the World Customs Organization (WCO), the country has implemented a number of interim measures to ensure uninterrupted Customs operations during the pandemic.

This includes measures to facilitate the cross-border movement of relief and essential supplies:

- Routine cargo selectivity criteria have been tailored, especially to release medium and low-risk cargo, focusing only on high-risk cargo. As a result, around 70% of the essential items were released under Green Channel;
- With the concurrence of other government agencies, a procedure was introduced to receive and coordinate regulatory approvals such as standards and permits via electronic means to ensure expedited clearance and release;
- Provisional online procedures were introduced to verify certificates of origin and grant preferential tariff treatments for transactions under Preferential Free Trade Agreements (PTA) under the South Asian Association Regional Corporation (SAARC);
- Provisional goods clearance procedures have been extended, with priority for consignments of relief goods and consignments needing expedited clearance;
- Existing 24x7 services were limited to approximately 8 hours per day in view of the low volume of exports as most of the factories were closed for operations due to government policy on minimizing human gathering. However, facilities were made available on call as required during Customs non-operating hours;
- In addition to the regular Customs Enquiry Point, a special 24x7 help desk is in operation to attend public and stakeholder inquiries;
- COVID-19 Contingency Plans detailing working hours and arrangements and emergency official contact numbers were published and regularly updated on the Sri Lanka Customs website.

Other measures in the document aim at sustaining supply chain continuity, protecting Customs administrations' staff (including social distancing measures), and other internal restrictions.

(source: Sri Lanka Customs/WCO, 28 April 2020).

Sea ports:

All sea vessels whose previous port call was from COVID-19 high risk countries must submit the following documents: pre-arrival documentation on health declaration; last 10 Ports of Call with dates; vessel status report; crew list; information on port of embarkation and date. Crew change is not permitted for seafarers starting 13 July 2020. Shore leave is not permitted.

(source: Wilhelmsen, 14 July 2020).

4. Customs, importation procedure (updated 17 July 2020).

All commercial borders remain open to cargo movement.

Port operations continue with limited staff, which results in slow clearance times, vessel berthing delays & de-stuffing etc. Priority will be given for perishables and essential cargo only.



(source: Bollore Logistics, undated).

According to an announcement from the Sri Lanka Customs department, cargo import and export clearance operations have started while adhering to the government policy on social distancing during the pandemic.

The working hours of various Customs offices for both sea and air cargo importation are as follows:

- Long Room, Customs Headquarters – From 10.00 am to 04.00 pm
- RCT Examination Yard, Orugodawatte – From 10.00 am to 12.00 am
- GL 1&2, High Risk Examination Yard, Grandpass – From 10.00 am to 08.00 pm
- NNR LCL Warehouse, Peliyagoda – From 10.00 am to 04.00 pm
- Other LCL Warehouses, Colombo Port – From 10.00 am to 04.00 pm
- Valuation Unit, Orugodawatte RCT Yard – From 10.00 am to 08.00 pm
- Front Line Valuation Unit (Long Room) – From 10.00 am to 04.00 pm
- Air Cargo, Katunayake – From 10.00 am to 05.00 pm

More information, as well as information on exports and transshipments, can be found on the notice. As an extended facilitation, a template-based processing of applications and other operational requests will be provided over email. More information as well as contact details can be found on the notice.

(source: Sri Lanka Customs department, 18 April 2020).

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

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

7. ASYCUDA user: Yes

8. ASYREC user: No

USEFUL LINKS / LIENS UTILES

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

Country-specific:

[Sri Lanka Civil Aviation Authority, COVID-19 notices](#)

[Sri Lanka Customs, Customs Announcement \(18 April 2020\)](#)

[Sri Lanka Customs, Interim mechanism to ensure uninterrupted operations during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic \(28 April 2020\)](#)

[Sri Lanka Customs, website homepage](#)

General:

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

[Bollore Logistics, COVID-19 Impact Update](#)

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



IMPACCT

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

COVID-19 [Sri Lanka]

Bulletin n°3 – CIQP : 23 July 2020

(Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

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:](#)

Ms. Jenifer ELMSLIE
UNOCHA, Geneva
[jenifer.elmslie at un.org](mailto:jenifer.elmslie@un.org)

Ms. Virginie BOHL
UNOCHA, Geneva
[bohl at un.org](mailto:bohl@un.org)