16 April 2020

1. Measures aiming to Facilitate the Cross-border Movement of Relief and Essential Supplies

- Advocate for or support the waiving or suspension of import duties and taxes for relief items.
- Prioritize the clearance of relief consignments on the basis of a list of essential items.

2. Measures aiming at Supporting the Economy and Sustaining Supply Chain Continuity

- Set up of crisis teams to ensure the overall performance of customs tasks.
- Take measures to guarantee personnel availability in the long term. Operate a 24/7 Customs clearance system.
- Introduce facilitation measures with regard to the requirements to submit original documents or to stamp certain documents.
- Persons affected by the activities and services declared essential in the emergency, such as foreign trade activities, are exempted from complying with the "social, preventive and compulsory isolation" and the prohibition to move.
- Extension of computation of Customs terms/due dates until 26 April 2020.

3. Measures aiming at Protecting Customs administrations’ Staff

Remarks from the International Road Transport Union

23.03.2020

The Decree of Necessity and Urgency, established on 19 March by the National Executive, has determined preventive and compulsory social isolation for the general population, but has excluded the motor transport of cargo as it is considered essential for the normal functioning of society.

It therefore ensures the flow of the transport of goods, oil, fuels and LPG, any activities related to agriculture, fishery and food production and distribution. This essential service also includes the home delivery of food, medicines, cleaning and hygiene products and other necessities, as well as the collection, transport and treatment of urban, hazardous and pathogenic solid waste.

FADEEAC recommends reducing staff to a minimum, leaving in place a dedicated team to enable the smooth operation of each company until 31 March. These might include administrative workers or mechanics, among others. According to FADEEAC, it is also important to remember that based on previous experience, complications may arise in some parts of the country with the application of these rules, and that in this instance some jurisdictions may apply exceptional measures and restrict freight transport operations.

That is why the FADEEAC COVID-19 Crisis Committee is available to provide legal support and assistance to resolve any doubts and discuss potential conflicts detected by carriers along the country’s routes. To request information and for enquiries or complaints about irregular situations, contact the FADEEAC Crisis Committee COVID-19 via Whatsapp message only, +549 11 37649391, 7 days per week, from 08:00 to 22:00.

Source: FADEEAC
- Provides Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to staff, such as masks, gloves, sanitizers, etc.

- Apply social distancing measures.

- Minimum necessary personnel is used to process essential operations.

- Ensure strict compliance with sanitary regulations in places/offices designated as primary Customs zones and preserve the health of Customs personnel, trade assistants and the Customs Service, their representatives and dependents, importers, exporters and other persons who interact with the Customs Service.

- Daily control of the body temperature of the people who enter the facilities of the places/offices designated as the primary customs zones as well as the Customs personnel at the beginning and end of their workday in order to ensure extreme measures of prevention. In the presence of fever (38°C or more) with or without other symptoms (respiratory distress, cough, headache, decreased smell), no service should be taken and Health personnel should be notified.

- Remote work/Home office must be assigned for all those tasks and functions that allow it.

- At each port, airport, border crossing office and other operational points in the country, the Customs service staff must have a COVID19 contingency plan publicly known.

- Customs official who are included in the "Risk Groups" (pregnant women, people over 60 years old, people with diseases - heart, respiratory, immunosuppressed, diabetes) should not provide face-to-face services.

4. Measures aiming at Protecting Society

- Ensure appropriate integration for preparedness and response.

- Availability of all COVID-19 related information on official website and social media accounts.

- Prohibition of entry into the country, for a period of up to 26 April 2020 inclusive, of non-resident foreign persons who have transited through "affected areas" within the fourteen (14) days prior to their arrival.

- A network of Customs reference points has been created to provide answers to different types of queries: airway, ex ante control, land, control, rules and procedures, processes, MERCOSUR and international and AFIP institutional matters.

- Intercept the trafficking of counterfeited medical supplies.

Source: Presidency

Decree 333/2020, April 1, 2020, EXTRAZONE IMPORT RIGHTS. ARTICLE 1.- Set an Extrazonal Import Right (DIE) of ZERO PERCENT (0%) for the goods included in the tariff positions consigned in the Annex (IF-2020-18851604-APN-SSPYGC # MDP) that is part member of this decree.

ARTICLE 2.- Exempt from the payment of the statistical fee to the import operations of the goods reached by this decree.

Decree 331/2020, April 1, 2020, PROHIBITION OF ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL TERRITORY of foreign persons not resident in the country, through PORTS, AIRPORTS, INTERNATIONAL STEPS, BORDER CENTERS and any other access point, in order to reduce the chances of contagion.

More information:
https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/
Di-2020-36-APN-GG, 2 April 2020: Approves the "APPLICATION PROTOCOL IN THE FIELD OF THE BUENOS AIRES PORT AGAINST THE PROPAGATION OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)", without prejudice to the application of measures that establish temporary restrictions or obligations different, approved by the Health Authority.

If-2020-19061813-APN-MTR, March 26, 2020, Instructs international transport port terminals to arrange, in the next 72 hours, the operation of Health Posts at their expense located in a place to be determined in consultation with the health authorities of the jurisdiction.

National Prevention Protocol COVID-19 in Maritime and inland waterways, includes current regulations related to COVID-19 and the protocols adopted by the different ports.

Contact information:

Except for the prohibition to enter the national territory provided for in the preceding article, and to comply with the obligatory isolation that corresponds pursuant to the provisions of Article 7 of Decree No. 260 /20 to:

a. persons who are affected by the transfer of merchandise by international trade operations for the transport of cargo of merchandise, by air, land, sea, river and lake means;
b. carriers and crew of ships and aircraft;
c. people affected by the operation of flights and medical transfers.

The provisions of this article shall apply whenever the excepted persons are asymptomatic, and comply, both within and outside the country, with the recommendations and instructions provided by the national health authority.

Multiple resolutions related to civil aviation, including measures and instructions for airlines related to COVID19.

Contact information:
https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/suplementos/2020031601NS.pdf

Source: Transport Ministry - National Administration of Civil Aviation

Múltiples resoluciones relativas a la aviacion civil, incluyendo medidas e instrucciones para líneas aéreas relativas al COVID19.

Contact information:

Source: Transport Ministry - National Administration of Civil Aviation

Contact information:
www.argentina.gob.ar/salud

HOTLINE: National Borders Health Directorate

Contact information:
www.argentina.gob.ar/salud