Namibia

Source: IMPACCT/UN OCHA

14.07.2020

- Namibia declared a State of Emergency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic on 28March 2020 which will last until 17 September.
- Flights to Namibia are suspended until 30 September 2020. This does not apply to humanitarian, medevac and repatriation flights.
- Sea Freight: Namport is fully operational and shipping lines are accommodating import and export cargo.

- More information in the attached bulletin on CIQPs

Source: WCO/Namibia Customs and Excise

21.04.2020

Amidst the pandemic (COVID-19) outbreak the Ministry of Finance is hereby sharing with the WCO regarding measures undertaken to deal with the global pandemic.

Regulatory measures under the State of Emergency

- Namibia Customs and Excise (NCE) adopted and implemented the Regulation of the State of Emergency - COVID-19 No. 9 of 28 March 2020 signed by His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob the President of the Republic of Namibia, and
- Guidelines to operationalize the Regulation of the State of Emergency have been developed to facilitate the free movement of essential and transit goods through the appointed routes.
- NCE has also implemented SADC Guidelines on Harmonisation and Facilitation of Cross Border Transport Operations across the Region during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Regulations implemented by Customs in line with national measures:

- Adherence to the restriction on movement of persons as per the Regulation of the State of Emergency- COVID-19 No. 9 of 28 March 2020.
- Limited access to offices, only essential and critical services are attended to.

List of border checkpoints that are operational and operating times:

Entry/Exit point	Working hours
Division: Central Region	
Hosea Kutako International Airport	Depends on Flight Schedules
Eros Airport	08H00 - 17H00
Transkalahari Border Post	07H00 - 24H00
Division: Northern East Region	
Katwitwi Border Post	08H00 - 19H00
Sarusungu Border Post	08H00 - 17H00
Katima Mulilo (Wenela) Border Post	06H00 - 18H00
Ngoma Border Post	07H00 - 18H00
Mohembo Border Post	06H00 - 18H00
Division: Southern Region	
Ariamsvlei and Noordoewer Border posts	24/7
Luderitz Harbour	08H00 - 17H00
Division Northern Region	
Oshikango Border Post	08H00 - 19H00
Kashamane Border Post	08H00 - 19H00
Omahenene Border Post	08H00 - 19H00
Division: Western Region	
Walvis Bay Airport	Closed
Walvis bay Harbour	07H00-22H00

Border checkpoints that are closed:

Remarks from the International Road Transport Union

Forthcoming

- Hosea Kutako International Airport is open for diverted flights to deliver emergency supplies intended for COVID-19 and evacuation of foreign nationals.
- All borders are closed for passengers, except commercial cargo are permissible. Oranjemund/Alexander Bay, Klein Manasse/ Rietfontein Border Posts and Walvis Bay Airport are completely closed, re-opening not known yet.

Operational modalities during the COVID-19 period:

- Some staff members performing non-essential services have been scaled down, and allowed to operate from home, this is to minimise physical contacts.
- At inland offices, a sizable number of three – four (3-4) clients seeking Customs services are allowed in the office at a given time after sanitization, and mandatory wearing protective masks and keeping to one (1) meter social distance between individuals.
- At the borders, all commercial cargo carrying trucks must present certificate issued by the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade permitting them to operate during the lockdown period.
- At Hosea Kutako International Airport, the Air Traffic Controllers communicate with Namibia Airport Company (NAC) about any arrivals /departures and in return NAC communicates with all relevant stakeholders to report on duty one hour before landing/departure of any flight.
- Stand-by working schedules were drawn and effected the 28 March 2020, with minimal number of officers (three and four officers) on duty per time/shift to avoid overcrowdings.
- Screening of accompanied baggage done jointly with Namibian Police using sniffer dogs as baggage are not allowed to enter the terminal where Customs and Excise scanner is situated.

Processing of COVID-19 emergency supplies:

Emergency supplies are given priority as per internal notice letter dated 27 March 2020, signed by the Acting Commissioner: Customs and Excise for the Exemption of Customs Duties and Rapid Release of Medical Equipment and Clinical Supplies by Customs and Excise, Schedule 4, rebate Item 412.11 of the Customs and Excise Act, 1998 (Act No. 20 of 1998).

At Airports, emergency supplies meant for COVID-19 are pre-released in consultation with relevant stakeholders such as Namibia Medicine Regulatory Council (NMRC), Namibia Standards Institute (NSI), National Emergency Response and Ground Handlers to curb on importation of fake medical supplies.

Joint clearance efforts are being applied with Namibian Police, Namibia Defence Force (joint physical examinations and river patrols), Health (screening and sanitary measures to drivers), Agriculture (import permits) and Immigration (history of travel and recommendation for quarantine of travellers) and Post Officials for postal packages.

GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS FOR 21-DAY LOCKDOWN OF KHOMAS AND ERONGO REGIONS INCLUDING OKAHANDJA AND REHOBOTH