

Directorate General of Customs - Cameroon

24 March 2020

To limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the continuity and smooth flow of trade, the Customs Administration of Cameroon has taken, or disseminated, the following measures:

- In relation to the movement of goods and people, with effect from Wednesday 18 March the Government of the Republic of Cameroon has ordered the closure of road, air and maritime borders, with the exception of cargo flights, ships carrying consumer staples, and essential goods and equipment (including relief consignments).
- Foreign trade is continuing, in particular with the landlocked neighbours (Chad, Central African Republic) for which Cameroon serves as a transit country, without prejudice to conducting health checks on drivers.
- Within the Customs Administration of Cameroon, the following measures are in force :
 - ❖ Implementation of social distancing measures (no gatherings of fifty or more people, cancellation of any meetings that might be attended by more than ten people);
 - ❖ Temporary ban on international travel assignments;
 - ❖ Awareness-raising regarding cross-infection precautions and hygiene measures;
 - ❖ Installation of disinfection stations in public buildings operated by Customs, for washing and sanitising the hands.
- Regarding the Customs treatment of supplies, materials and equipment normally used to combat COVID-19, the list suggested by the WCO Secretariat has been widely circulated within the Customs Administration, and attention has been drawn to the Customs facilities applicable at import. The Administration is planning to propose full exemption for all these goods, for the duration of this health crisis.
- Humanitarian assistance consignments are eligible for the following procedures: (i) immediate collection subject to lodging of a provisional declaration and security, (ii) pre-arrival completion of Customs formalities, with inspection on quayside/runway followed by immediate removal of the goods, and (iii) pre-arrival declaration procedure. Such consignments may benefit from duty- and tax-free admission.
- The following short-term measures are also envisaged :
 - ❖ Full deployment, across the entire national territory, of CAMCIS (Cameroon's new Customs Information System modelled on UNI-PASS, to replace ASYCUDA ++), which consolidates the automation of procedures and developments to establish a paperless system as is required for social distancing;
 - ❖ Relaxation of the requirement to provide certain commercial documents;
 - ❖ Suspension of the collection of interest on the late payment of Customs duties and taxes;
 - ❖ Identification of concerted actions to be taken with the national supply chain to ensure continuity of service if the Government implements lockdown measures.

On 26 March 2020, the General Directorate of Customs of Cameroon released to the general public the following Official Notice, introducing further measures aimed at facilitating procedures and reducing human contact.



OFFICIAL NOTICE

N° 111 /MINFI/DGD OF 26 MARCH 2020

On the implementation of measures to facilitate foreign trade operations following the COVID-19 international health crisis.

The Service and users are informed that as a result of the COVID-19 international health crisis, the following measures have been taken to facilitate foreign trade operations :

- Relief consignments and humanitarian assistance consignments are eligible for the following procedures : (i) immediate collection subject to lodging of a provisional declaration and security, (ii) pre-arrival completion of Customs formalities, with inspection on quayside/runway followed by immediate removal of the goods, and (iii) pre-arrival declaration procedure;
- It is recommended that the exchange of administrative correspondence take place electronically, using the e-mail address : cab.douanes.cameroun@gmail.com;
- Regarding the admissibility of Customs declarations and eligibility for “removal of goods” operations, the requirement to provide certain commercial documents and accomplish certain procedures has been relaxed as follows :
 - ❖ acceptance of documentation transmitted electronically (copies) in place of the originals, subject to regularization, where necessary;
 - ❖ waiver of RVC (Value and Tariff Classification Report), subject to regularization, in cases where the relevant documentation cannot be made available to SGS by the supplier;
 - ❖ acceptance of electronic invoices;
 - ❖ acceptance of copies of the EUR1 Movement Certificate for the application of tariff preferences under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Cameroon and the European Union;
 - ❖ acceptance of the release slip issued by the system instead of the original signed by the Collector, subject to regularization;
 - ❖ suspension of the collection of interest on the late payment of Customs duties and taxes;
- With a view to securing the continuity of service in order to ensure the best possible provision of supplies, both nationally and to neighbours for which Cameroon serves as a transit country, it is essential that concerted actions for an efficient response be identified with the national supply chain, either online or using any modern means of communication.

This Memorandum is applicable with immediate effect, and any difficulties encountered must be reported to me without delay./-

Signed by the Director General of Customs