

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
31 March 2020

The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020, prompting Canada to implement the following responsive measures:

- On March 16, 2020, Canada announced new restrictions to ban the entry of foreign nationals by air travel from all countries except the US. Canada also issued a customs notice for the relief of duty and tax for imported goods required for an emergency by Canadian health care centres and emergency responders.
- On March 19, 2020, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) began providing a 45 business days grace period for imported goods requiring account declarations. The CBSA is suspending late accounting penalties released on minimum documentation from the period of 11 March to 14 May 2020. This grace period will be reviewed as the situation evolves.
- On 20 March 2020, Canada further announced restrictions to prohibit the entry of foreign nationals into Canada if they arrive from a foreign country other than the United States.
- On 20 March 2020, in collaboration with our U.S. partners, as a part of Canada's effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while safeguarding global supply chain continuity, Canada announced that, effective 21 March 2020, persons providing essential commercial services while in Canada (ex. truck drivers) as part of the global supply chain may enter Canada if they do not exhibit COVID-19 symptoms. Persons exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms are prohibited from entering Canada. Non-essential travel, including tourism, has also been prohibited.
- On 27 March 2020, Canada began allowing businesses to defer payments of the Goods and Services Tax / Harmonized Sales Tax amounts collected on their sales, as well as customs duties owing to their imports until 30 June 2020. Importers must still submit accounting declarations within the required timelines.

While these important initiatives will serve to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada is particularly mindful of the need to maintain coordinated regional and international action to ensure the integrity of global trade supply chains.

The annex hereto (**March 27, 2020 – COVID Update.pdf**) provides an example of communication material that the CBSA is using to share information with its commercial and industry stakeholders during this time.



COVID-19 Daily Commercial Update to Industry Stakeholders March 27, 2020

KEY MESSAGE

Deferral of Customs Duty and Sales Tax for Importers until June 30.

Commercial Issues Follow-up Document now included as Annex A of daily update

What We Are Looking Into

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CBSA is reviewing impacts on the on-boarding schedule for the new Canadian Export Reporting System (CERS) and the planned decommissioning of the Canadian Automated Export Declaration (CAED) system. Any changes to the schedule will be communicated shortly and clients are encouraged to continue activating CERS accounts to the extent possible.

Key Issues

Following the [announcement made by the Prime Minister on March 27, 2020](#), CBSA has issued [Customs Notice 20-10](#) regarding the extension of timeframes for the payment of customs duties and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The timeframe for all payments due to the Agency is extended to June 30, 2020. This also includes charges on the statement of account of March due on April 1, 2020.

Other Sources of Information

Official updates on COVID-19 are available on the [Government of Canada website](#).

Bulletins will not be issued over the weekend. If there are any emergencies, stakeholders are asked to reach a contact listed below.

Contacts

If you have any follow-up questions, please send to the BCCC at BCCC-CCACF@CBSA-ASFC.GC.CA.

Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Director General, Commercial
Office # 613-957-3511
Cell # 343-542-9240

Doug.Band@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Director General Trade and Anti-Dumping
Office # 613-954-7338
Cell # 613-295-5992

Border Information Service (BIS) line: Within Canada (Toll-free) - 1-800-461-9999 / Outside Canada (Long distance charges apply) - 1-204-983-3500

Annex A - Commercial Issues Follow-up document

The CBSA is aware of concerns raised by various stakeholders and it is currently exploring ways to address these concerns, where legislation permits. We are working through the following requests and sending daily communications using the Border Commercial Consultative Committee (BCCC) network.

Thank you for your patience. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the [BCCC mailbox](#).

Subject Matter	Question/Concern	Comment/Status
Payment/ Penalties	<p>When can we expect to know your temporary measures for payments and penalties for duties and taxes?</p> <p>Will CBSA be lenient in allowing for incomplete or late March and April SOA payments without penalty with consideration given to the ongoing financial implications for Canadian business in the months following a return to “normal” business?</p> <p>As retailers have been deemed non-essential services and are very concerned about the financial impact of the closure on their business with diminished cash flows, which may impact payment to the receiver general, will consideration be given to deferred or late payment?</p>	<p>RESOLVED - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-11 Announcement made by the Prime Minister on March 27, 2020</p>
Essential Goods / Relief goods	<p>Will new restrictions on Canada-US non-essential travel negatively impact the cross-border transportation of certain crucial natural goods, such as liquefied natural gas, propane, commodities and other goods?</p>	<p>There is no restriction on the movement of goods for the purpose of trade between the US and Canada. The intention of the usage of the word ‘essential’ is simply to distinguish leisure from professional activities.</p> <p>Government of Canada News Release</p>
Payment/ Penalties Timeframes/ Extensions	<p>Would CBSA consider waiving or lowering amounts needed to be paid or secured in order to appeal as well as extend deadlines for monthly Statement of Account (SOA) payments and automatically waiving account penalties?</p> <p>Would it be possible for the CBSA to consider waiving the entire application process for an extension of time to file a</p>	<p>There is no provision in the <i>Customs Act</i> allowing the CBSA to waive the application for a request for extension as per 60.1, or that allows the CBSA to waive the requirement to pay or post security as per section 60 of the Act.</p>

	dispute and allow for an automatic extension to file a dispute	
Systems	What is the status on the use of IID for non-commercial goods?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-07
Timeframes/ Extensions	Will the 90-day timeframe to submit B2s pertaining to a Trade Compliance Verifications be extended?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-09
Essential Goods / Relief goods	How will CBSA address the unprecedented demand and urgent need for disinfectants and hand sanitizers during the COVID-19 pandemic?	All essential and business travel will continue unimpeded. Both governments recognize the importance of preserving vital supply chains between our two countries. These supply chains ensure that food, fuel, and life-saving medicines continue to reach people on both sides of the border. Government of Canada News Release
Health and Safety	Will health checks be required for truck drivers? Will there be checks at the border/port of entry or will it only be self-monitoring by drivers and/or companies?	Transport Canada issued a media release March 17, 2020, which provides notable exceptions to the 14-day self-isolation for all arrivals. This includes individuals in the trade and transportation sector such as flight crews, truck drivers, railroaders, mariners. These workers are asked to practice social distancing (2 metres), closely self-monitor, and self-isolate immediately should they exhibit any symptoms. For full details: https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/03/new-measures-for-covid-19-response.html More information on travel advice, including a list of exempted travellers, is available on the Coronavirus website .
Vessels	Crew Transfers & Processing/Shore leave	https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-menu.htm
Timeframes/ Extensions	Will extensions be granted for FAST cards and things such as Trusted Trader memberships as they begin to expire?	Resolved - Commercial drivers who hold a valid FAST card that is about to expire, need to re-apply for their membership before it expires to maintain their

		membership and remain valid in our systems. The CBSA website will be updated accordingly.
Payment/ Penalties	Will late accounting penalties be automatically waived / deadlines delayed?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-10
Systems	Will the mandatory implementation date for Integrated Import Declaration (IID) remain April 1, 2020?	Resolved - Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CBSA will be delaying the decommissioning of the legacy OGD service options until a date later to be determined. Clients may continue using the SWI IID or the legacy service options (OGD-PARS, OGD-RMD) to obtain release of OGD regulated goods.
Payment Process	Will CBSA allow Customs Brokers to pay Annual Licence Renewal by e-payments?	Currently, there is no avenue to pay the fee online and it is business as usual.

We acknowledge that we have received the following inquiries and will update you with responses as information becomes available.

Subject Matter	Question/Concern	Comment/Status
Timeframes/ Extension	Will additional clarification be given regarding Customs Notice 20-10 - Waiver of Late Accounting Penalties (COVID-19) from a Customs Self -Assessment (CSA) perspective?	New
Payment/ Penalties	Has there been any discussion on negating the duty and tax charges on personal effects that clients are unable to pick up at the associated import site due to COVID-19 travel restrictions?	New
Systems	Will there be a hold placed any significant border modernization efforts (CARM, CERS, SWI, etc.)? Food supply chain networks are overwhelmed with ensuring continuity of business at this time.	Partial Answer only - Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CBSA will be delaying the decommissioning of the legacy OGD service options until a date later to be determined. Clients may continue using the SWI IID or the legacy service options (OGD-PARS, OGD-RMD) to obtain release of OG regulated goods.

Shipping/CLVS	<p>Will CBSA be looking into the below options?</p> <p>Option 1: Allow for the use of the CLVS clearance program for freight shipped directly to Canada from overseas in the marine mode.</p> <p>Option 2. Allow for the use of the CLVS clearance program for overseas freight shipped directly to the United States and moved in-bond and in-transit through the U.S directly to Canada via highway truck. The freight would remain in-bond under CBP customs control and upon arrival in Canada an approved CLVS program participant will submit the required documents i.e. Courier Consist Sheet for release under the CLVS program.</p>	
Shipping/CLVS	<p>Would it be possible for CN to work with CBSA to see if there's a way for courier shipments to be handled on rail in the relatively short term, and in relation to COVID-19 without having to develop systems or requiring change in existing regulation?</p>	
Timeframes/ Extensions	<p>During compliance verifications, CBSA issues interim reports. Will the 30 day time frame for a reply to the interim report be extended?</p>	
Payment/ Penalties Timeframes/ Extensions	<p>Will CBSA extend timeframes for B2 Refunds and Drawbacks and allow for electronic submission of documents as well as not issuing any Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs)?</p>	<p>Partial Answer only - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-10</p>
Border Procedures	<p>Can CBSA provide detailed instructions for drivers on what they are expected to do when arriving at primary inspection lines (PILs)?</p>	<p>Partial Answer only - The CBSA recognizes that preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities is important for everyone and we are taking all measures to ensure our facilities are safe, specifically following the recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Canada. These recommendations include: employees regularly washing their hands, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes on site, and increased cleaning of high-touch surfaces and work areas. The CBSA is</p>

		working with external partners and specialised companies to assist in the cleaning of our facilities. Employees have continuously been reminded of how COVID-19 is transmitted in order to prevent transmission.
Timeframes/ Extensions	Will CBSA be temporarily halting new information requests to importers, relating to <i>Special Import Measures Act</i> (SIMA) inquiries? If not, will you extend the timeframe for official SIMA requests for information?	
Timeframes/ Extensions	In those situations where a time limit to request a refund or drawback under the <i>Customs Act</i> is nearing expiration consideration, will the filing deadline be extended?	
Approval Process	Will emails granting a customs broker authority to act or e-signatures on Agency agreements be sufficient when CBSA requests proof of such authority?	
Timeframes/ Extensions	The Chamber of Commerce notified CBSA that there are a lot of US carnet holders as well as other foreign carnet holders with goods currently in Canada under a carnet that may not be able to re-export the goods on the carnet from Canada prior to the expiry date of the carnet, depending how long this continues. Will we receive policy guidance if that does occur?	
Paper processing issues and electronic alternates	Surety Association of Canada recommends digital bonds to minimize the impact and/or delays resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. Will this be an option?	
Paper processing issues and electronic alternates	Will CBSA accept by email, release requests including required attachments, that currently can be filed only as hard copy? Will CBSA accept by email, requests for the temporary entry of goods?	

	<p>Employees of customs brokers and importers working from home often do not have access to fax machines. Faxes are required for RMD corrections. CBSA Montreal already has this process in place. Will this option be extended to all ports?</p> <p>Customs brokers and importers continue to file new and amended bonds for release prior to payment. It is recommended that a temporary procedure be implemented to allow for the filing of bonds by email.</p>	
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