

National Customs Service - Ecuador

15 April 2020

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE CUSTOMS NATIONAL AUTHORITY OF ECUADOR TO CONFRONT THE SANITARY EMERGENCY BY COVID19

In order to guarantee the normal development of international trade operations in the context of the sanitary emergency declaration by COVID-19, the National Customs Service of Ecuador ordered that import and export processes and dispatches be handled normally, under strict sanitary protocols.

The measures adopted by the customs administration, are summarized in two types of actions:

1. Crisis Management Model
2. Trade facilitation rules applicable to the health emergency

1. CRISIS MANAGEMENT MODEL

1.1. **Trade monitoring round-table:** Considering COVID19 emergency, a trade facilitation round table was established, with daily virtual sessions to monitor international trade development

1.2. **Priority Areas:**

Priority work areas were defined according to the number of personnel required for the sustainability of the operations (face-to-face and teleworking). High-level supervisors were appointed to lead each of the 10 areas described, with the ability to implement all necessary measures to resolve incidents and to coordinate officials to act following a set of criteria in compliance with the guidelines of the General Direction.

10 priority areas

- Sanitary security of users and customs personnel,
- Transparency and Internal control,
- Customs On-line management sustainability,
- On site operation efficiency,
- User and queries attention,
- Donations, relief shipments and supplies for the health emergency import,
- Regulations issuance to attend emergency,
- Generation of daily updated information on supplies and stocks of health emergency care, and reports to the State authorities,
- Risk Management
- Communication

1.3. Priority attention measures to donations and relief shipments:

- Activation of a single line (0996763123) for simplified customs processes: donations, relief shipments and private sector initiatives related to the national emergency COVID-19.
- Coordination with sanitary and quality authorities to approve abbreviated processes for the COVID-19 health emergency related supplies.

1.4. Internal control and purchase measures:

- Suspension of any purchase processes if not related to the national emergency. Exceptions are submitted to the sole and direct approval of the higher authority.
- Donations management and / or non-reimbursable funds to implement what is necessary to guarantee the customs operation.
- Complaints line related to acts of corruption in permanent operation.

2. TRADE FACILITATION RULES APPLICABLE TO THE HEALTH EMERGENCY 19 measures adopted by the National Customs Service to confront the COVID- 19 emergency

1. Implementation of a trade facilitation round-table to guarantee international trade continuity and normality, under strict sanitary protocols. The trade facilitation round-table is to respond to the current health emergency through abbreviated customs procedures, and to coordinate the simplification of sanitary and quality procedures for COVID-19 related goods and chemical reagents.

2. 100% of attention in order to guarantee the sustainability of international trade

- ECUAPASS technological platform: ecuapass.aduana.gob.ec.
- Calls to 1800-ADUANA (238262).
- Email: mesadeservicios@aduana.gob.ec

3. Implementation of exemption in the Ecuapass system, for supplies and products related to health emergency.

4. Implementation of export restrictions for supplies/products related to health emergency.

5. Extension of payment deadlines from 20 to 40 business days for foreign trade operators qualified to benefit from clearance with guaranteed payment.

6. Ex officio restructuring of fees for payment facility processes that expire during the period of the declaration of a state of emergency due to COVID-19.

7. Acceptance of documents in PDF (if not possible in a single window) to carry out foreign trade procedures, including certificates of origin for exportation.

8. Submission of customs guarantees in PDF, subject to electronic validation by Insurance companies.

9. Presentation of applications in PDF by the established service means.

10. Implementation of risk management to reduce physical inspections of Goods.

11. Implementation of the exception process for physical inspections that require the presence of a trade operator subject to special authorization to carry out the process without their presence and with their respective endorsements.
12. Extension of the validity of the codes of foreign trade operators.
13. Extension of the authorization and extension of time of customs regimes.
14. Suspension of deadlines and terms of tax administrative processes and for administrative processes that are under the responsibility of SENA E.
15. Suspension of deadlines and terms for filing objections and administrative appeals.
16. Suspension of collection deadlines.
17. Suspension of deadlines for tacit and/or definitive abandonment of Goods.
18. Suspension of expiration periods and prescription of all kinds of administrative actions that are within the competence of SENA E.
19. Establishment of a special processes for household items of migrants who have already passed the first inspection in order to issue an authorized exit with a later period to validate the observations.

The National Customs Service of Ecuador maintains its commitment and responsibility to comply with the President of the Republic, Mr. Lenin Moreno guidelines, both in the productive and security sectors to face this situation.