

Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation
15 May 2020

To ensure overall performance of customs community the Federal Customs Service of Russia has introduced immediate and and long-term measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

1.1. The Federal Customs Service of Russia had established «green lanes» to ensure fast clearance of food, relief goods and essential supplies. Extra priority is provided to processing of any goods relating to the support and fight against the COVID-19 spread and pandemic. For imported relief consignments and essential supplies, green lanes provide minimized clearance time.

1.2. Customs authorities received special instructions based on risk management to not to apply additional forms of customs control where customs inspection is not obligatory or necessary.

1.3. The Federal Customs Service of Russia introduced significant facilitation in requirements for compliance with technical regulations and sanitary standards during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.4. Facilitation measures and aimed at the security and continuity of the relief consignments supply on the basis of a list of essential items (sanitary products, medical devices/equipment and food). The Federal Customs Service of Russia had prioritized the clearance of relief consignments at the border crossing points:

- pre-arrival processing of the Goods declaration and release of the goods upon arrival has been provided;
- priority for submission of documents and information submission by the customs authority has been guaranteed.

Ultimately, customs clearance has been completely prioritized for relief goods assigned for COVID-19 pandemic countermeasures.

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

2.1. The Customs authorities adopted a decision concerning the import duties and VAT exemption on imported goods targeted to combat the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (protective equipment, testing kits or medical devices such as ventilators). The Federal Customs Service of Russia had introduced temporary tax relief measures such as lowering the import customs duties rates on medical supplies, sanitary products, testing kits, protective and medical equipment etc.

2.2. Moreover, temporary tax relief measures were introduced such as lowering of value-added tax on food (vegetables, rye, rice, buckwheat, child nutrition etc.).

2.3. To guarantee the supply chain continuity, the Federal Customs Service of Russia had also introduced several measures. Certain facilitation measures to speed up the customs clearance and subsequent procedures for goods in transit are applied. The

local customs authorities have directions to give priority to entry for vehicles in customs control zone and priority lanes for freight transport.

To tackle the virus outbreak and to provide rapid response in case of the interruption of the supply chain the daily monitoring and analysis organized for the clearance process of:

- relief consignments on the basis of a list of essential items
- anti-epidemic supplies
- food and goods such as water

Likewise, daily monitoring of freight transport quantity and occurrence of queues at border crossings across the country is applied.

3. Measures aiming at Protecting Customs administrations' Staff

3.1. Customs authorities were instructed to have their staff working in shifts in order to prevent spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Customs Administration took strict measures for protection, based on social distancing principles. All non-first line officers work from home. Field customs officers have reduced staff numbers to minimize interaction.

3.2. Personal protective equipment is distributed among staff (masks, gloves, antiseptic agents, etc.)

4. Measures aiming at Protecting Society

4.1. Certain facilitation measures to ease the movement of medical personnel across borders are introduced. The customs authorities responsible for receiving, registration and release of goods declarations, have organized internal distribution of goods declarations among officers to establish a priority order of processing essential goods.

5. Other Measures.

5.1. According to Government decision more than 90% of all on-site customs inspections were cancelled (as of 06/05/2020). FCS Russia conducts on-site customs inspections that are based only on information about grave violation of legislation.