

**Uganda Revenue Authority**  
**6 May 2020**

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

1. Priority clearance of medical and essential supplies.
2. Tax exemption extended on specific medical equipment and sundries by Government of Uganda to support the fight against the Pandemic.
3. Truck drivers are allowed to proceed on their journey as the samples are taken at the points of entry are submitted to the national lab or the mobile labs for processing.

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

1. All designated border points of entry and exit of goods are operating as usual allowing movement of cargo across borders with a crew of not exceeding 2 people
2. Use of electronic cargo tracking technology to track drivers whose results test positive for COVID-19.
3. Ensured that operational guidelines issued during the period are relayed to clients and the public through all available channels of communication including social media.
4. Encouraged importers and manufacturers to take on tax exemptions as provided for under the laws and allowed general extension of payment of duties upon request.
5. URA is facilitating Bond owners and clearing agents to access the bonded warehouses.
6. Use of Online systems for cargo clearance and to respond to queries and inquiries, e.g. Asycuda, Help tool to respond to queries.
7. Categorisation of Customs officials as providers of essential services and thus enabling them continue to work during lock down.

**3. Measures aiming at Protecting Customs administrations' Staff**

1. Set up a crisis team to respond to COVID-19 staff emergencies.
2. Ensured that information relating to COVID-19 is relayed to staff through all available channels of communication including social media.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Depopulated offices by facilitating some functions to operate from home to ensure social distancing.</li> <li>4. Provided personal protection equipment - hand sanitizers, hand washing facilities, Infra-Red thermometer guns at various official entry points and face masks to staff who are operating amidst the pandemic</li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Measures aiming at Protecting Society</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use of online facilities (help tool) to manage client issues without physical contact.</li> <li>2. Liaison with Ministry of health to test all truck drivers entering the country, for COVID-19.</li> <li>3. Movement restricted to monitored gazetted routes and stops to prevent /minimise any form of unsupervised interaction with the communities.</li> <li>4. Use of electronic cargo tracking technology to track drivers whose results test positive for COVID-19.</li> </ol>
<p><b>5. Other Measures</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sharing of insights regarding managing finances, mental and psychological health during the Corona virus with the help of experts, counsellors, and URA Doctor.</li> </ol>

Information submitted earlier by URA:

**Uganda Revenue Authority**  
**30 April 2020**

**MEASURES TAKEN BY UGANDA TO COMBAT COVID-19**

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After most of the neighboring countries had confirmed cases of COVID-19, the government of Uganda started taking deliberate measures to reduce gatherings starting with closing academic institutions at all levels and banning all political, cultural, social and religious gatherings. The first COVID-19.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, the following measures are obtaining:

1. Closure of all educational institutions.
2. Suspension of religious gatherings such as prayers in Churches and Mosques.
3. Suspension of all social, cultural and political public gatherings and conferences.
4. Suspension of all local passenger public transport.

5. Suspension of all passenger flights into and out of the country.
6. Suspension of entry into Uganda by anyone other than truck drivers, by land or water.
7. Suspension of non-food sellers from markets.
8. Imposition of a countrywide lockdown save for a few workers in selected sectors deemed to be essential.
9. Imposition of a countrywide 7pm to 6.30am curfew.

**The Customs Administration has in line with the national COVID-19 guidelines conducted the following:**

1. Set up a crisis team to respond to COVID-19 emergencies.
2. Ensured that information relating to COVID-19 is relayed to staff, clients and the general population through all available channels of communication including social media.
3. Depopulated the offices by facilitating some staff to work from home to provide for social distancing.
4. Facilitated staff especially at the borders with personal protection equipment and sanitizers.
5. Joined the national task force by monitoring movement of cargo trucks through electronic cargo tracking.
6. Enhanced facilitation and processing of clearance for Cross-border Movement of Relief and Essential Supplies.
7. Provided a list of relief and medical supplies relating to COVID-19 under tax exemption.
8. Encouraged importers and manufacturers to take on tax exemptions as provided for under the laws and allowed general extension of payment of duties upon request.
9. Provided for general waivers on penalties for delays in transit, late arrival of commercial documents and over stay by ATA carnet holders.
10. Provided for the use of electronic services while interfacing with clients and responding to queries and inquiries.

The Uganda Revenue Authority submitted information on measures implemented by the East African Community as follows:

**THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 BY EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES**

The six countries of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan have all reported Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Cases.

The following measures are currently being implemented in regards to Customs

1. All designated border points of entry and exit of goods are operating as usual.
2. Movement of cargo has been restricted to the gazette transit routes.

3. Transporters and Freight forwarders have been required to have not more than 3 operators of trucks.
4. Screening of truck drivers and crew (For Uganda and Kenya).
5. Quarantining of individuals with COVID-19 symptoms under the supervision of health officials for 14 days.
6. Giving priority to essential goods and medical supplies during clearance.
7. Promotion of local production of items required in containing COVID-19 such as sanitizers, face masks, ventilators etc.
8. Designating specific points along the transit routes for recuperation by the drivers.
9. Monitoring truck movements using the Regional Electronic tracking devices.
10. Manufacturers and importers are being encouraged to take advantage of exemptions for relief items and medical supplies as provided for under the law.
11. The use of established electronic systems to minimize physical contact is being encouraged.
12. There are relaxed measures on the enforcement of transit time limits.
13. Shipping lines have also been encouraged to waive charges on container delays.
14. There is disinfecting of trucks carrying cargo albeit in a limited scale.