

**Customs Administration of Argentina**  
**8 April 2021**

✓ ***Which of the measures outlined in the WCO Resolution on the role of Customs in facilitating the cross-border movement of situationally critical medicines and vaccines has your Customs administration implemented in practice?***

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, Ezeiza Customs<sup>1</sup> has considered necessary to apply the "priority criteria" of the import/export shipments of medicines, vaccines and supplies, considered critical and essential, above the rest of the goods.

- Having identified Laboratories as well as the Customs Brokers, who carry out the import/export procedures of this type of goods ("critical and essential"), Customs worked with advanced cargo information. It was also known by all the actors of the supply chain that this "priority criteria" was adopted by this Customs for this type of goods.

- Regarding imports inspections/verification, and being aware that Ezeiza Customs is specialized for this type of goods, among others, the staff has long experience and is used to verifying them, taking special care in the cases of sensitive goods, as well as considerations such as "cold chain", the handling of dry ice, and the aptitude for the use of X-ray systems (scanners) depending on their characteristics. If necessary, due to the storage conditions in extreme cold temperatures (more than -70°C), as well as their packaging in special "containers", the verification procedures are coordinated to be carried out at the premises of the Importer or Exporter, facilitating the release processes.

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Ezeiza Customs has been working in a synchronized and proactive manner with governmental agencies, the National Health Authority (Ministry of Health) and with the Sanitary Inspection and Registration Authority (ANMAT), regarding the import authorization prior to the arrival of goods, medicines and vaccines against COVID-19, through a fluid, dynamic and direct communication channel, in order to minimize verification times and Customs clearance.

✓ ***Was any relevant information concerning the Customs clearance of COVID-19 vaccines and the goods and devices used for their shipment and transportation, made publicly available, for example on the Customs administration's web-site? If yes, please provide a URL. If not made publicly available, was relevant information provided to the supply chain stakeholders – manufacturers, exporters, importers, logistics providers, etc.?***

- No, since the importers/exporters are laboratories which are used to the shipment of this type of goods.

✓ ***Was any dedicated guidance made available to the field Customs officers with regard to the Customs clearance of COVID-19 vaccines for export, transit and import, as well as the goods and devices used for the vaccines' shipment and transportation? If yes, please provide details on how the guidance was disseminated.***

- No, since Ezeiza Customs is specialized in the handling of this type of goods.

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<sup>1</sup> The Directorate of Ezeiza Customs is comprised of 4 international airports: **Ministro Pistarini International Airport in Ezeiza**, San Fernando International Airport, El Palomar Airport and Aeroparque Jorge Newbery.

So far, Ezeiza Customs has been the only customs office through which COVID-19 vaccine imports have been processed, due to its importance in terms of air transport management.

✓ **Has any training been provided to the staff of your Customs administration in anticipation of the COVID-19 vaccines distribution effort, for example training for handling of time- and temperature-sensitive items, training for handling of dangerous goods (e.g. dry ice), training for identifying the COVID-19 vaccines on import or export documentation?**

- No, since Customs officials are used to handling this type of goods.

✓ **What mode of transport was used for the exportation/importation of COVID-19 vaccines from/into your country?**

- So far the mode of transport used for the import of COVID-19 vaccines is by air (plane).

✓ **What are the documents required for the exportation of COVID-19 vaccines from your country? (applies to the Members exporting COVID-19 vaccines)**

- In general, the export of vaccines does NOT require prior authorization from the National Health Authority (ANMAT).

So far Argentina has not exported yet COVID-19 vaccines.

✓ **Which national authorities are responsible for the checking and clearing the COVID-19 vaccines shipments for exportation? How is the cooperation between these authorities arranged? (applies to the Members exporting COVID-19 vaccines)**

- Customs is the national authority responsible for the checking and clearing the COVID-19 vaccines shipments for exportation.

✓ **Is there any exchange of information/data between the Customs authorities of the exporting country and the Customs authorities of the importing country? What type of information is exchanged? How is the exchange of information arranged/regulated?**

- No

✓ **Was the Customs transit procedure used for the COVID-19 vaccines imported into your country? If yes, why/what was the rationale?**

- No

✓ **What are the documents required for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines in your country?**

- Sec Resol. Gral. AFIP N ° 743/99 and modif. (-Form OM1993 / 1-A - Commercial Invoice - Transport Document - ANMAT Intervention Certificate / Form 14 Points).

✓ **Which national authorities are responsible for the checking and clearing the COVID-19 vaccines shipments for importation? How is the cooperation between these authorities arranged?**

- Customs is responsible for checking and clearing and the ANMAT is responsible for the authorization. The coordination between Customs and ANMAT is with prior communication before checking and clearing.

✓ **If information is available, what was the time required for the release of the COVID-19 vaccines shipments imported into your country?**

- The time is not determined, priority is given since the arrival of the flight over the rest of the goods arriving at Ezeiza Customs.

✓ **Has your government considered duty and tax waivers for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines?**

- Yes, the importation of COVID 19 vaccines are subject to tariff exemptions.