

Central Customs Authority of Germany
5 November 2021

The measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic were coordinated at the level of the European Union by the EU Commission. The measures were introduced by all Member States and not only by Germany. The measures described merely represent the concrete national implementation.

- **Does your administration monitor the imports and/or exports of inputs and components used for the manufacturing, distribution and administering of COVID-19 vaccines? If yes, do you capture and disseminate detailed trade data on these products?**

Inputs and components that can be used for the production, distribution and administering of COVID-19 vaccines shall be verified to determine whether restrictions on imports, exports or transit arise due to national or European Union legislation. If there is a suspicion that the goods are subject to prohibitions or restrictions, the competent authority is involved. Further details on the statutory powers are given in the relevant law or regulation. In the field of pharmaceutical law, the customs authorities, in accordance with Section 74(1) of the Medicinal Products Act (Arzneimittelgesetz — AMG —) are involved, in particular, in the supervision of the entry of medicinal products and active substances within the scope of that law, including imports from third countries. The customs authorities shall verify the existence of a medicinal product and, in case of doubt, contact the competent national authority, which is originally responsible for deciding on the importability and/or authorisation requirement of medicinal products. The decision as to whether there has been an infringement of the provisions of pharmaceutical law is taken exclusively by the Medicines Agency.

- **What measures has your administration implemented to facilitate the export/ import/ transit of inputs and components used for the manufacturing, distribution and administering of COVID-19 vaccines?**

If goods to be used to fight the COVID-19 pandemic are declared to the German Customs for import into the EU, importers may indicate a special code in the customs declaration. These customs declarations are then processed immediately by the Customs offices so that these goods are quickly available to the organisations involved in the health sector and the population. This ensures that the supply chain is not interrupted.

- **In the process of designing those measures, have there been consultations/cooperation with the pharmaceutical companies that import or export those inputs and components in your country? Please provide details.**

Germany has not held separate discussions with affected pharmaceutical companies at the national level because, as described above, the basic measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic were coordinated by the European Commission at the level of the European Union.

- **Has your Administration used the guidance material provided by the WCO and has it been useful? Please provide details of which guidance documents have been used and found useful, for example the HS classification reference for vaccines and related supplies and equipment, the Joint Indicative List of Critical COVID-19 Vaccine Inputs, the Secretariat Note on the Role of Customs in facilitating and securing the cross-border movement of situationally critical medicines and vaccines, etc.**

Germany has taken note of the different WCO guidance documents.

In particular the HS classification reference for vaccines and related supplies and equipment has been useful to facilitate the cross-border movement of situationally critical medicines and vaccines.

The European Commission has published an indicative list of goods which can be imported duty-free under Decision (EU) 2020/491 of 3 April 2020, provided that the goods are used to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The relevant publication of the WCO was used by the European Commission as the basis for the indicative list.

- **Please share any details not covered by the questions above, which you consider to be relevant and beneficial to the broad WCO membership and stakeholders.**

No further comments.