

Saudi Customs
16 March 2021

1. *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? Please provide details of the implementation.*
 - The shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine have been given high priority by coordination with clearance authorities and other government entities to synchronize the clearance simultaneously, as they have been cleared immediately after the approval of the result of the Food and Drug Authority within 15 minutes.
 - By synchronizing with the stated measures and prescribed in the World Customs Organization resolution regarding conducting non-intrusive inspections as necessary, where the incoming goods are inspected at the time of the shipment arrival through the inspector and the completion procedures are done via the IPAD device at the site.
 - All preventive measures have been taken by coordination with the specialists in the hand-over company by facilitating all obstacles in accordance with the requirements, procedures and precautions applied in this regard.

2. *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.*
 - In cooperation with clearance authorities, full priority has been given to completing customs procedures for medical imports, in an effort to support the Kingdom's great efforts to confront the pandemic. Yes, public information has been posted on Twitter at the following link:
<https://twitter.com/saudicustoms/status/1344971049369300994? S = 24>.

3. *If not made publicly available, was relevant information provided to the supply chain stakeholders – manufacturers, exporters, importers, logistics providers, etc.?*
 - All information has been made available, and the previous link has full details.

4. *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.*
 - Directives were issued by the General Customs Authority regarding providing the facilities required to import COVID-19 vaccines (19) in addition to the goods used for shipping vaccines and the mechanism for their transportation. A team has been formed by the specialists at the port with the participation of all relevant sectors, and communication and coordination between them is done through a WhatsApp group in order to ensure the rapid response in completing all procedures related to this type of shipments.

5. *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?*
 - Yes, there is prior training for customs officers to deal with time- and temperature-sensitive goods and dangerous goods, and they are well trained in that.

6. *What mode of transport was used for the exportation/importation of COVID-19 vaccines from/into your country?*
 - The means of transportation used to import COVID-19 vaccines is by plane.
7. *What are the documents required for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines in your country?*
 - The documents required are the bill of lading and the commercial invoice only.
8. *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?*
 - The national authorities responsible for inspecting and clearing COVID-19 shipments for import are the General Customs Authority and the Food and Drug Authority. There is a prior arrangement and coordination among all government entities, the shipping agent, the customs broker, and the relevant stakeholders (the importer) to release COVID-19 shipments. There are working groups on WhatsApp to coordinate and fulfill all the clearance requirements before the arrival of the shipments to the port. Upon arrival, they are matched and loaded on its own transportation means.
9. *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?*
 - The authorities responsible for inspecting and clearing COVID-19 shipments for import are the Saudi Food and Drug Authority and the General Customs Authority, and there is no communication with customs officials with the authorities in the country of export, as this task is carried out through the shipping agent at the port (Sal Company).
10. *Was the Customs transit procedure used for the COVID-19 vaccines imported into your country? If yes, why/what was the rationale?*
 - There is no transit transfer of the vaccine but rather directly from the source.
11. *Does your administration implement risk management techniques related to the cross-border movement of COVID-19 vaccines?*
 - There are no risks because there is prior planning for release and continuous coordination in the Saudi Customs ports.
12. *If information is available, what was the time required for the release of the COVID-19 vaccines shipments imported into your country?*
 - The time required to clear the shipment from COVID-19 in the event that all the information is available is less than fifteen minutes until the shipments are loaded onto the private means of transport.
13. *Has your government considered duty and tax waivers for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines?*
 - All COVID-19 vaccines are exempt from customs duties and taxes.
14. *Please include any other relevant information you wish to share.*
 - We do not have documents and other information to share.