

**Good practices in facilitating the cross-border movement of inputs and components  
used for the manufacturing, distribution and administering of COVID-19 vaccines  
Thai Customs  
27 September 2021**

Thai Customs Department fully supports the facilitation of COVID-19 vaccine deliveries resulting in a successful import of a number of vaccine shipments into the country. In order to ensure that such activity is performed effectively and in a timely manner, several measures have been implemented to facilitate the cross-border movement of inputs and components used for the manufacturing, distribution and administering of COVID-19 vaccines.

- 1) Allowing the importer to use the copy of Certificate of Origin:** During COVID-19 pandemic, Thai Customs allow the importers to use the copy of Certificate of Origin (C/O) and then submit the original one within 30 days, or up to a maximum of 60 days after the date of inspection and release.
- 2) Announcing the import duty exemption:** Thai Customs announced the import duty exemption on several essential COVID-19-related goods. For example, goods for treatment, diagnosis or prevention like face masks and protective garments.
- 3) Relaxing the regulation on goods in transit or transshipment:** Thai Customs allow a relaxation on the regulation of goods in transit or transshipment which requires to be sent out of Thailand within 30 days from the date of entry into the Kingdom in order to mitigate the effects of the exceptional circumstance of COVID-19.
- 4) Providing the extension of time limits for re-exportation and storage period of goods:** Thai Customs provide time limit extension for re-exportation of temporary imported goods. For bonded warehouses, free zones and free trade zones, Thai Customs normally allow to extend the storage period for only one year; however, during the pandemic we allow such period to be extended for one more year.
- 5) Granting import duty exemption for 146 items of machinery goods:** Thai Customs grant import duty exemption for related goods, such as agricultural machinery, construction machinery and package manufacturing machinery in order to boost domestic investment.

**COVID-19 Measures related to WCO guidelines**

Thai Customs Department recognized the benefits of guidance documents provided by WCO to ensure the effectiveness of Customs operations during COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, Thai Customs have applied many useful WCO recommendations to facilitate the cross-border movement of inputs and components used for the manufacturing, distribution and administering of COVID-19 vaccines. The example of measures taken which are in line with WCO guidelines are as follows:

- 1) Closely coordinating with relevant agencies:** Thai Customs closely cooperate with relevant agencies both in public and private sectors such as Food and Drug Administration (FDA), health authorities and logistics providers to obtain required document and information on the characteristics of the genuine vaccines completely. For example, Thai Customs are working in hand with the FDA via National Single Window (NSW) system regarding the electronic exchange of Drug Import License between the FDA and Customs. As a result, our Customs officers are able to view related information of goods linked with the submitted declaration in e-Import System promptly. This also enable the officers to speed up a timely clearance process of goods.

**2) Operating joint inspections with other related government agencies:** To expedite the vaccines inspection, Thai Customs conduct a joint inspection with other government agencies especially the FDA through a non-intrusive method such as X-Ray machine. This aims to maintain the appropriate storage facilities of the vaccines in order to prevent temperature variations as well as to speed up the clearance procedures.

**3) Applying Pre-Arrival Processing:** To expedite the Customs procedures, Thai Customs allow vaccine importers to submit an import declaration to the e-import system and pay VAT before the aircraft arrived. Therefore, the import processes can be completed as soon as possible and the inspected vaccines could be released from customs custody promptly.

### **COVID-19 Related Laws and Regulations**

Thai Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance, are aware of the problems regarding the lack of access to medical supplies and other medical treatments that are used for the relief of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to control the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and to facilitate the flow of essential goods to ensure that all sectors are given access to the medical supplies, we have issued notifications of the Ministry of Finance and related customs notifications, for example, as follows:

- Notification of the Ministry of Finance RE: Duty Exemption following to Section 12 of the Customs Tariff Decree (No.7) to reduce import duty of surgical masks under subheading 6307.90.40 and safety-face masks for protection against dust, smoke or toxic substance used for safety apparatus under subheading 6307.90.90 including raw materials for such product manufacturing;
- Notification of the Ministry of Finance RE: Customs Duty Exemption for Imported Goods used for mask manufacturing to exempt import duty of raw materials for product manufacturing;
- Notification of the Ministry of Finance RE: Customs Duty Exemption for Imported Goods used for COVID-19 Treatment, Diagnosis and Protection stated that imported goods used for COVID-19 treatment, diagnosis, and protection under any headings according to Notification of Ministry of Public Health;
- Customs Notifications RE: The rules and procedures for exemption of import duties on goods used for treatment, diagnosis or prevention of Coronavirus infection (COVID-19);
- Customs Notifications RE: To allow importers of goods as specified on the notification to submit photocopies of certificates of origin rather than originals during the pandemic to facilitate the importers;
- Ministerial Regulation RE: Annual fee waiver for a licensee granted a permission to establish bonded warehouse, godown, place of security, permitted port and duty free zone and a licensee granted a permission to operate a business in a duty free zone under the Customs law, B.E. 2564. This measure emphasizes on business operator who is economically affected by the 2019 Coronavirus epidemic as a result of raw materials imports disruption as well as exports. To waive the annual fee for the whole year of 2021 would help reducing the burden and alleviating the impacts that occur to such operators.