

General Directorate of Customs of the Czech Republic
6 April 2020
Measures taken by the General Directorate of Customs of the Czech Republic
regarding the COVID-19 outbreak

Since the beginning of the declared COVID-19 state of emergency on 12 March, the General Directorate of Customs of the Czech Republic follows closely the Government decisions, instructions from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior and other institutions.

Special attention is paid regarding legal instruments, instructions, notes and recommendations from the European Commission which apply in the whole European Union.

Internally, the General Directorate of Customs informs all staff about relevant decisions and instructs about necessary procedure to be followed. All instructions are regularly updated and published on the internal website of the Customs administration.

Externally, the General Directorate of Customs publishes information on its website www.celnisprava.cz and deals individually with relevant stakeholders (government and other state and institutions, transport operators, companies...).

In order to prevent the further expansion of the COVID-19 epidemic and, on the other hand, to remain operational and continue performance of customs activities, the General Directorate of Customs adopted the following measures in connection with the state of emergency which apply for all customs procedures:

- Health protection and safety – use of personal protective equipment, hygiene and disinfection measures;
- Restriction on movement of persons within the public areas of Customs offices (entry to the building upon demand, body temperature checks);
- Limitation of direct contact with declarants and drivers (isolated rooms for storage and distribution of mail and other documents, where possible, documents are sent electronically);
- Protection based on the social distancing principle (change of shifts for customs officers, teleworking where possible);
- Flexibility towards extension of time-limits, deadlines and validity of documents, certificates and declarations;
- Temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies (such as medicines, disinfection and protective equipment);
- Reliefs from customs duty and taxes for the import or temporary admission of medical, surgical and laboratory equipment in line with the current legal provisions;
- Facilitation of customs procedures and customs formalities in line with the current legal provisions;
- Recommendation to use simplifications.

Practical implementation of the measures and further facilitation depends on the facilities and overall situation at each Customs office.

Until today, the General Directorate of Customs has not identified any serious problem or obstacles affecting the proper functioning of all customs procedures. At this moment of time, there are on-going efforts to manage the current difficult situation while ensuring compliance with the legal obligations.