

Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration

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When the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on 11 March 2020, Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs administration started to implement some actions in view of the arisen emergency situation to facilitate the movement of relief supplies to preventing the spread of the coronavirus and threat the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Now after 15 months of COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic, Iran Customs has implemented the following responsive measures and has provided the best facilitation for the movement of imported COVID-19 vaccines:

Imported vaccines

- From 03/02/2021 to 02/05/2021 twelve shipments of a total number of 3,195,800 doses of Indian, Korean, Russian and Chinese vaccines have entered the country through Imam Khomeini Airport, performing customs formalities with minimum documents, direct shipment, and in the shortest possible time (less than 15 minutes) by the Ministry of Health, with no delay in carrying out customs procedures and clearance of these vaccines.

Facilities:

- Extending office hours for many of the customs offices and border crossing points during the holidays and weekends in order to prevent the delay of the movement of shipments and reduce the overcrowded conditions.
- Fast clearance of current shipments, especially relief supplies and medical equipments for COVID-19 treatment including diagnostic kits, various types of respirators, gloves, ethyl alcohol, etc. which are the first priority.
- The Government has reduced duties and taxes on the import of 14 items of equipment and 13 items of supplies which are necessary for combating the COVID-19 with a minimum import duty of 5% (of customs value).
- Clearing of the above-mentioned shipments, which had the registration of a bank order and were in the process of providing bank currency, was announced.
- Releasing of essential supplies and equipment for COVID-19 with a minimum set of documents and without tracking code, when they are approved by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education. Each case will be notified to the relevant points of entry with the invoice number and type of goods to be released immediately.

- The license of international transportation companies will be renewed automatically for a certain period of time in order to prevent in-person visits.
- Accepting of customs clearance documents via office e-mail with no need to visit in person.
- Customs headquarters announced to all Customs offices to extend all temporary entry and export licenses that are due to expire in near days in order to prevent the commuting of the stakeholders to Customs offices.
- Customs headquarters requested all Customs offices to send the information of all voided declarations of health-oriented goods which are prohibited to export, and announce to the Ministry of Industry every day.

Prohibition and restriction:

- The government has restricted the export of medical devices and supplies including masks and other medical items, in accordance with the list of HS codes announced by the Ministry of industry, as well as the export of machinery for the production of these items.
- It is emphasized to track the exit of goods such as diagnostic kits, all types of respirators, gloves, ethyl alcohol, etc. as well as obtaining the number and information of similar goods which already exist in Customs places to follow up with the importers to declare and release the shipment.

Staff

- Staff has been trained with guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health recommending hygiene measures such as hands washing and disinfection of surfaces, objects, areas, and a minimum one-meter distance from patients or suspected cases to reduce the possibility of disease transmission among personnel at border terminals or offices, as well as individuals working at and commuting to such places.
- Essential personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks are being distributed among staff.
- All Equipment and Tools are being sanitized frequently
- Proper and agreeable ventilation, segregation of spaces or observance are implemented

- Providing remote work platform for most employees and now one third of staff are attending the offices serving the people

Other measures

- Establishment of the Central Headquarters for Combating the COVID-19 outbreak
- Correspondence with the heads of customs of other countries in order to reopen the borders and prevent disruption of the trade process
- Providing instructions on how to take care of the entry and exit of people at the entry and exit points of the country and the environmental control guide to deal with corona virus in the border terminals issued by the Ministry of Health to all customs offices.
- Installation of thermal cameras in Customs in order to measure the temperature of passengers entering the country
- A protocol has been developed to unify the procedure of individuals' arrival and departure through Iran's points of entry.
- Reporting our measures to combat the spread of the Corona virus to the World Customs Organization, the International Road Transport Union and the Joint International Commission of the European Union and the World Bank.