

The National Customs of Bolivia
22 February 2021

- ✓ **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 National Customs of Bolivia has implemented measures 1, 6 and 10 in terms of facilitating the entry of medicines, medical supplies and vaccines, coordinating with government agencies such as the National Drug Agency (AGEMED) and the Ministry of Health, with adequate facilities and Customs personnel who are prepared for the Customs clearance of said merchandise.

- ✓ **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. If not made publicly available, was relevant information provided to the supply chain stakeholders – manufacturers, exporters, importers, logistics providers, etc.?**

The National Customs has modified its import procedure by means of Directory Resolution No. RD 01-002-21 of 13 January 2021 (circular 008/2021) in the part of relief shipments so that medicines and vaccines can enter without further requirements, an aspect that is published in the link of the institutional website of the National Customs at the following electronic address: www.aduana.gob.bo, option Normativa → Normativa Vigente, or also in the option Normativa → Circulares.

Likewise, the Instructivo AN-GEGPC-I-006/2021 of 27 January 2021 was issued for the import clearance of vaccines and others, which is aimed at the National Managements, regional Managements, Customs Administrations, Customs Warehouse Concessionaires, International Carriers, Brokers and Customs Brokerage Agencies and Foreign Trade Operators, being published at the following electronic address: www.aduana.gob.bo, option Normativa → Normativa Vigente, or also in the option Normativa → Circulares.

- ✓ **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.**

The National Customs of Bolivia has trained the officials of the different Customs Administrations on current regulations and operational aspects that they must consider in the clearance for the importation of vaccines, diagnostic tests, medicines, medical devices, supplies, reagents and medical equipment. It has also issued the Instructions AN-GEGPC-I-006/2021 of 27 January 2021 for the importation of vaccines and others, in accordance with the previous point already mentioned.

- ✓ **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?

The National Customs has Customs Warehouse Concessionaires, which provide services for the handling, conservation and custody of merchandise, expressly requesting them to update their staff in the handling of merchandise and medicines for COVID-19.

- ✓ **What mode of transport was used for the exportation/importation of COVID-19 vaccines from/into your country?**

The first batch of vaccines entered by air.

- ✓ **What are the documents required for the exportation of COVID-19 vaccines from your country? (*applies to the Members exporting COVID-19 vaccines*)**

Not applicable

- ✓ **Which national authorities are responsible for the checking and clearing the COVID-19 vaccines shipments for exportation? How is the cooperation between these authorities arranged? (*applies to the Members exporting COVID-19 vaccines*)**

Not applicable

- ✓ **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?**

Since the Plurinational State of Bolivia is currently in the process of acquiring vaccines against COVID-19, the National Customs doesn't have these data.

- ✓ **Was the Customs transit procedure used for the COVID-19 vaccines imported into your country? If yes, why/what was the rationale?**

Current regulations establish that vaccines may enter national territory through import clearance under the modality of general, early and immediate clearance. Likewise, within the framework of what is established in article 197 of the Regulations to the General Customs Law, as it is a measure assumed within the framework of the declaration of pandemic, its entry as relief shipments may also be authorized, provided that its destination is well identified, for which the National Customs has established the necessary procedures.

- ✓ **Does your administration implement risk management techniques related to the cross-border movement of COVID-19 vaccines?**

Within the control powers exercised by the National Customs through risk management processes applied for this purpose, it does not contemplate the realization of physical inspections for the shipments of this type of merchandise imported by government agencies. If some type of inspection and/or examination during transit or receipt of merchandise is considered extremely necessary, the National Customs has non-intrusive technological tools for this purpose.

- ✓ **What are the documents required for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines in your country?**

The document required for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines is the AGEMED Certificate issued by the Ministry of Health.

- ✓ **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 requirements for obtaining prior authorizations and certifications are established by the Ministry of Health through AGEMED.

- ✓ **If information is available, what was the time required for the release of the COVID-19 vaccines shipments imported into your country?**

The first batch of COVID-19 vaccines imported to Bolivia was carried out via El Alto airport as relief shipments, in a time of 30 minutes.

- ✓ **Has your government considered duty and tax waivers for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines?**

Yes, from the presence of the pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus in our country, the national government issued a series of provisions through Supreme Decrees that differs to zero percent (0%) the Tariff Tax, aspect set out in the current Customs Import Tariff.

- ✓ **Please include any other relevant information you wish to share.**