

**National Customs Service of Costa Rica**  
**1 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 measures implemented in the importation of vaccines and described in the "Resolution on the Role of Customs in Facilitating the Transboundary Movement of Critical Medicines and Vaccines" are as follows: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 11.

While Customs in Costa Rica prioritizes the importation of vaccines and coordinates efforts in advance for vaccines to be moved immediately to their destination, Customs is a supportive element and works with health entities to ensure that the importation of vaccines is managed in an agile manner, taking the case forecasts.

Measure 3 on: "Provide for special procedures for authorized/recognized supply chain actors, including producers of COVID-19 vaccines.". It was partially implemented because Costa Rica has long implemented procedures for the treatment of relief shipments and import of urgent goods such as vaccines, with contacts established in different government entities, where coordination is done prior to events.

Measure 4 on: "Apply risk-based control and perform examinations on shipments declared as such medicines and vaccines only in exceptional circumstances, and only at the appropriate moment and place." It was partially implemented whenever Costa Rica merely carried out rapid release of imported vaccines through the preparation of administrative minutes without further formality, so there was no need for risk controls.

It is clarified that with regard to measure 11 on: "Ensure that Customs staff are prepared to handle specialized temperature-sensitive items, including those involving the use of dangerous goods (dry ice) for their transportation", the handling, racking and logistics of vaccines is carried out through health authorities, with the Customs Administration being a facilitator.

**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.?**

There's no record.

**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 Government of Costa Rica has long adopted measures for the treatment of relief shipments and import of urgent goods such as vaccines, with contacts established in different government entities, where coordination is done prior to the dispatch of COVID-19 vaccines, thus ensuring agile and timely treatment.

The shipment and transport of the vaccines to their place of storage is carried out immediately on arrival, the goods (COVID vaccines) are accompanied by National Security.

**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 handling, racking and logistics of the goods (COVID vaccines) is carried out by the health authorities, with the Customs Administration being a facilitator.

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

Vaccines were moved 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)**

No exports have been made.

**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)**

No exports have been made.

**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 exchange of information for the importation of COVID vaccines is carried out by health authorities with foreign suppliers and logistics providers. The health authorities coordinate this documentation with the Customs office prior to the arrival of the vaccines in the country, with the aim of making Customs clearance easier in an expedited procedure.

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

The Customs transit procedure was not used, as the vaccines were withdrawn directly from the aircraft by the Health Authorities.

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

The Directorate-General of Customs implements measures aimed at the immediate exit and processing of vaccines, after the lifting of an administrative record.

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

Documents for the importation of vaccines: B/L or air waybill, Invoice, health permits extended 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?**

In Costa Rica, the authorities responsible for the fight against COVID-19 are the Ministry of Health and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund in coordination with the National Emergencies Commission (CNE). Cooperation is very important, fast and timely, all management is previously coordinated between the different governmental institutions.

**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 for the release of COVID-19 vaccines is immediately upon arrival of vaccines at the airport.

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

In Costa Rica, vaccines are exempted by law

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

No further relevant information.