

**ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS AND INDIRECT TAXES OF MOROCCO**

**18 FEBRUARY 2021**

**FACILITATING THE CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT OF COVID-19 VACCINES**

- 1. 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.**

Measures (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), (9) and (10) are applicable.

In the performance of its duties the Customs Administration continuously strives, in cooperation with its partners, to implement simple, straightforward and transparent procedures. The environment in which the Customs Administration operates is characterized by an accelerated flow of goods, giving rise to multiple fraud risks; this situation calls for increased responsiveness and effective interventions based on modern control and risk management techniques. The selectivity system has been improved by the adoption of a new approach in which the action of Customs is not focused solely on the physical inspection of the goods, but also on the document checking policy.

The Customs Administration has also been endeavouring, for a number of years, to reduce the clearance time for goods and thus help to shorten their stay at the point of entry. In order to achieve this objective, various measures aimed primarily at easing the passage of goods through Customs have been introduced. To that end the Customs Administration prioritizes the rapid removal, based on limited data (AWB...), of consignments which are perishable or delicate (vaccines, medicines), working in cooperation with the health authorities responsible for controls on this category of consignments.

- 2. 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.?**

Given the nature of the body responsible for importing the vaccines into Morocco, which is none other than the Moroccan State itself, through the Health Department, no information about the procedure for importing the vaccines has been made publicly available by the Customs Administration.

- 3. 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.**

Any dedicated guidance is conveyed by the central Customs Administration to the relevant regional Directorates by fax or by e-mail.

- 4. 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?**

Handling and logistics issues associated with the COVID-19 vaccines are dealt with by the airport authorities, which are working in cooperation with the health authorities' representatives for this purpose. Customs' role is confined to document checks, or if necessary physical inspections where there are duly justified suspicions.

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

The vaccines are brought into Morocco by air.

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

There have been no exports of vaccines from Morocco.

- 7. 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*)**

There have been no exports of vaccines from Morocco.

- 8. 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?**

An exchange of data between Customs authorities may take place if the country from which the vaccines are dispatched is among the countries with which Morocco is associated through a partnership agreement/convention which covers this matter. The vaccines received to date have come from countries with which Morocco has not partnered for the exchange of data between Customs authorities.

**9. 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 has not been used for COVID-19 vaccines. The health authorities take charge of the vaccines as soon as they arrive at the airport.

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

Checks performed by the Customs Administration are based on modern control and risk management techniques.

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

The removal of COVID-19 vaccines is authorized under cover of the Air Waybill (AWB) before payment of the duties and taxes payable. The health authorities do not lodge the Customs declaration or pay the duties and taxes until after the relevant supporting documents have been received.

**12. Which national authorities are responsible for checking and clearing the COVID-19 vaccine shipments for importation? How is the cooperation between these authorities arranged?**

Close collaboration has been established between the Moroccan Customs Administration and those in charge at the Ministry of Health, which is responsible for the checking and clearance of COVID-19 vaccination consignments at importation. The health authorities inspect the vaccines received and duly inform Customs, which releases the goods immediately based on the accompanying documents (AWB). The health authorities undertake to regularize the import operations post-facto, by presenting the prescribed Customs declarations and paying the duties and taxes payable.

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

The release of COVID-19 vaccines is granted as soon as the vaccines arrive at the airport.

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

COVID-19 vaccines are subject to the payment of import duties and taxes.

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