

**New Zealand Customs Service
21 January 2021**

New Zealand Customs implemented and leads a Customs Centre of Excellence team to understand the current and future state of the importation and exportation of critical supplies deemed essential and a priority to support the COVID-19 operation within New Zealand.

Utilizing trade data New Zealand Customs made contact with all importers, exporters and manufacturers of critical supplies. Industry, government stakeholders and internal stakeholders were advised of the new centralized point of centre of excellence for critical supplies. This has given New Zealand Customs an awareness of all imports and exports of critical supplies as well as any known issues experienced by industry.

Keeping up with emerging trends in critical supplies remains a priority. The initial focus was on Personal Protection Equipment which, extended to raw materials used in the manufacture of critical supplies. More recently our focus has been on Critical Health Supplies, not those to treat patients with Covid19 but goods used in the day to day running of Hospitals and Clinics which have seen delays due to supply chain issues.