



PACIFIC HUMANITARIAN PATHWAY ON COVID-19 (PHP-C)

COMMON PROTOCOLS ON CUSTOMS AND BIOSECURITY

Purpose

1. To provide **guidance** on a common and consistent approach on Customs and Biosecurity to ensure smooth transition and facilitation of health personnel and relief supply responses to Forum Member countries under the PHP-C.

Application and Scope

2. These protocols:
 - (a) are subject to, and intended to be applied only to the extent permissible under, the laws, policies, operational and risk management frameworks of Members;
 - (b) apply only to the facilitation of relief consignments, inclusive of the medical supplies itemized in Annex I, as requested by Members to prepare against and to address the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic within their jurisdictions; and
 - (c) are based on international best practice models.

Definition

3. In these protocols, “relief consignments” mean:
 - (a) goods, , foodstuffs, Harmonised System of Tariff Classification (HS) classified medical supplies prescribed in Annex 1, clothing, blankets, tents, prefabricated houses, or other goods of prime necessity such as food staples, sanitary products, and fuel supplies, forwarded to those affected by COVID-19;
 - (b) all equipment, provisions, supplies, personal effects and other goods intended to enable COVID-19 relief personnel to perform their duties and to support them in living and working in the territory of a Member country throughout the duration of their mission; and
 - (c) any other consignment of items requested by a Member to support its COVID-19 response mechanism, and to address the health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guidance to Members

4. Customs clearance of PHP-C COVID-19 relief consignments for export, transit, temporary admission and import requires priority treatment and action, as a matter of national priority and urgency.
5. The following national Customs arrangements should be considered for PHP-C COVID-19 relief consignments:
 - (a) enabling of lodgement of a complete Goods declaration or, where instances allow, of a provisional Goods declaration by Importers or their Agents, subject to completion of the declaration within a specified period if required;
 - (b) enabling of lodgement and registration or checking of the Goods declaration and supporting documents prior to the arrival of the goods, and their release upon arrival; and
 - (c) targeting and intervention of such goods should occur based on national risk assessment frameworks or when intelligence suggests the consignment is compromised, and any such interventions should be prioritised.

6. Any economic import or export prohibitions or restrictions and any import or export duties or taxes payable or waivers issued for all COVID-19 relief consignments are to be administered in line with national policies and practices.

7. Members should consider biosecurity risk minimisation measures for the arrival of goods or personnel to their country, and such measures should aim to reduce possible introduction of plant and animal pests and diseases which could harm the environment and agriculture output capacity unique to each country.

8. Members may consider treatment of cargo measures as guided by the WHO and SPC Guidance on Protecting Cargo Handlers from the Potential Risk of COVID-19, which provides evidence that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 through handling of cargo is low, and/or the Oceania Customs Organisation advisory in their All Partners Access Network (APAN) platform .

[Ends]

Annex 1

HS Classification – COVID-19 Medical Supplies
Covid-19 Test Kits
3822.00 - COVID-19 Test kits
3002.15 - COVID -19 Test Kits
9027.80 - COVID -19 Diagnostic Test instruments and apparatus
Protective Garments and the like
6307.90 - Textile face masks
9020.00 - Gas masks with mechanical parts
9004.90 - Protective spectacles and goggles
3926.20 - Plastic face shield
4015.11 - Surgical rubber gloves
4015.19 - Other rubber gloves
6116.10 - Knitted or crocheted gloves
6216.00 - Textile gloves that are not knitted
6505.00 - Disposable hair nets 6505.00
6210.10 - Protective garments for surgical/medical use made up of made up of felt or nonwovens whether or not impregnated, coated
Thermometers
9025.11 - Liquid thermometers
9025.19 - Other thermometers
Disinfectants
2207.10 - Alcohol solution
3808.94 - Hand sanitizer
8419.20 - Medical or surgical and laboratory sterilisers

2847.00 - Hydrogen peroxide in bulk
3004.90 - Hydrogen peroxide presented as a medicament
3808.94 - Hydrogen peroxide put up in disinfectant preparations for cleaning surfaces/ Other chemical disinfectants
Other Medical devices
9022.12 - Computed tomography (CT) scanners
9018.90 - Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)
9019.20 - Medical ventilators artificial respiration apparatus)
9018.19 - Patient monitoring devices Electro – diagnostic apparatus
Medical consumables
3005.90 - Wadding, gauze, bandages , cotton sticks and similar articles
9018.31 - Syringes, with or without needles
9018.32 - Tubular metal needles and needles for sutures
9018.39 - Needles, catheters, cannulae and the like
9018.90 - Intubation kits
4818.90 - Paper bed sheets

