



**World Customs
Organization**



Customs and TF Measures implemented by the WCO to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

**Knowledge Academy for Customs and Trade,
Brussels, 8 - 10 September 2020**

Covid-19 Pandemic: WCO assessment on Challenges and Impact

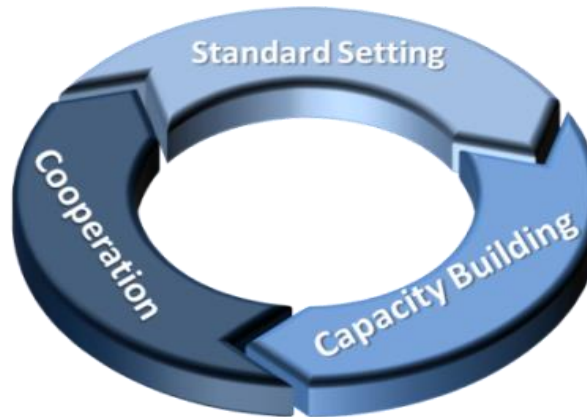


- ❑ Negative impact on border operations, trade, travel and transportation.
- ❑ Integrate Customs Administrations with health and safety responsibilities in preparedness, and as a pre-response mechanism
- ❑ Disruptions of the global supply chain due import and export restrictions
- ❑ Dramatic increase in supply of relief and essential goods requires facilitation.
- ❑ Customs need coordinated action with other national agencies and stakeholders to ensure smooth movement of relief goods and personnel, while applying appropriate risk management

Primary Role of the WCO in Disaster Relief



Technical Working Groups and other collaborative fora



Supporting the application of international standards

Utilizing network of accredited experts from Customs Administrations

Supports 183 Member countries in the area of disaster relief by:

- setting standards for simplified and harmonized border procedures,
- delivering technical assistance and capacity building to apply standards,
- enhancing cooperation and coordination with other international organizations and relevant stakeholders.

WCO Standards for Simplified & Efficient Border Procedures



1. Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) - Chapter 5 of Specific Annex J on Special Procedures.
2. Guidelines to Chapter 5 of Specific Annex J to the RKC.
3. The Istanbul Convention Annex B.9
4. The 2011 Council Resolution on the Role of Customs in Natural Disaster Relief.



These instruments uphold the importance of preparedness, predictability, communication and coordination in facilitating the cross-border movement of relief consignments, relief personnel and their possessions.

Existing Cooperation with International partners



WCO signed MoUs with UN-OCHA & IFRC (2010) and with UN-OCHA in (2015).

- ❑ Extensive use of Partners' expertise and tools in WCO Capacity Building activities in the area of disaster relief.
- ❑ **Joint Workshops** in five WCO Regions (WCO, UN-OCHA and IFRC) to promote use of existing instruments and tools relevant to the role of Customs in disaster relief, and to collect information on Members' needs, challenges and best practices.
- ❑ **WCO C-RED Project** (2016 – 2018) “Customs for Relief of Epidemic Diseases Project” with funding from the Dutch Government and cooperation with UN-OCHA.
- ❑ Member of the Working Group on **Importation and Customs Clearance Together** (IMPACCT) established by UN-OCHA
- ❑ Coordination with UN-OCHA and other partners on **Comprehensive review of the RKC.**

WCO Secretariat Initiatives in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



- ❑ Newly created section of the WCO web-site dedicated to several **guidance materials compiled and developed** in response to COVID-19:
<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/natural-disaster/coronavirus.aspx>.

- ❑ Developed a repository of (114) Members best practices and measures in response to Covid-19 pandemic:
 - i) facilitating the cross-border movement of relief and essential supplies;*
 - ii) supporting the economy and sustaining supply chain continuity;*
 - iii) protecting staff, and*
 - iv) protecting society*

- ❑ Joint initiatives with other International Organizations

- ❑ Programme support to develop capacity of Customs administrations



COVID-19 Pandemic: WCO Leadership and guidance



Updated version of the HS classification reference for COVID-19 medical supplies ([edition 3.0](#)), as well as a [List of priority medicines for customs during COVID-19 pandemic](#) (30 Apr 2020)

WCO published a [Secretariat Note](#) on how to establish and utilize essential goods lists (13 May 2020)

Launched databases of national temporary export restrictions and of temporary import support measures for critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19.

WCO Enforcement measures to protect society



- ❑ 25 March: WCO launched a dedicated IPR CENComm group on the CENComm Platform for the exchange of enforcement sensitive information. (143 users from 57 countries are part of the network.)
- ❑ The CENComm group served as a stepping stone for the launch of the Global Operation codenamed “STOP”.
- ❑ Members implementing the Global Travel Assessment System (GTAS) have been encouraged to include a risk rule to identify passengers originating from or transiting through countries that would be considered of high risk for the destination country.
- ❑ Members encouraged to actively use the nCEN for the collection and sharing of COVID-19 related intelligence in the area of IPR, medicine, or tax and duty evasion.
- ❑ WCO technical support was proposed to Members needing additional assistance with the set-up and operation of the nCEN. Encouraged usage of the Global Rapid Alert Network or ‘GRAN’ (a secure communication tool offered through the CEN).

Digitalization and Paperless Trade



- The use of ICT, through digitalization for paperless procedures enable contactless services, which eventually support health protocol such as physical distancing measures.
- Enablement on the use of ICT:
 - **electronic services in conducting business with Customs (electronic Customs Declaration);**
 - **facilitative measures on the requirements to submit original documents;**
 - **facilitative measures on the requirements to stamp certain documents;**
 - **Reduce physical inspection to only those shipments identified through risk assessment as high risk**
 - **Electronic payment of Duty, Tax and other Fees**
- COVID-19 should be used as a momentum to accelerate digitalization agenda
- All facilitative measures implemented to cope with COVID-19 should be sustained for medium and long term implementation.

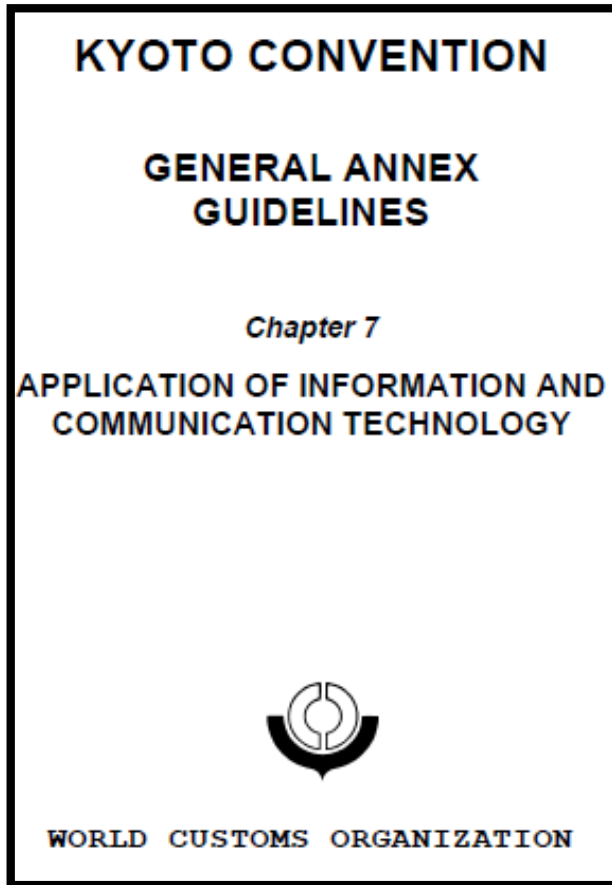
Digitalization and Paperless Trade



- WCO and its Members have committed to modernizing Customs administrations through Digitalization,
- Customs community is Ready to work together with the Supply Chain community to enable and end – to – end paperless international trade processes.

- RKC ICT Guidelines
- IT Guide for Executive (strategic management process concerning the use of Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) in Customs)
- Single Window Compendium;
- WCO Data Model (standardization of data requirements and electronic messages)
 - Recommendation on the use of the WCO Data Model
 - Recommendation on Dematerialization of supporting documents
- Globally Networked Customs
- Advance Electronic Information for Pre-arrival processing
- Data analysis;
- Use of new and emerging technology: block chain, mobile apps;
- Use of Non-intrusive inspection (NII) equipment
- E-payment

Business Continuity in WCO tools



Business continuity Management: Building Resilience



JUMP
OR
ADJUST

The boiling frog syndrome

- Scan Risks & Threats: **unacceptable risks and single point of failure**
- Know your “water”: BIA
- Plan for continuity: MAO; RTO
- Design BC measures, **resource requirements** (buildings, people, ICT, suppliers, equipment, etc.) and **structures**



Source: www.thebci.org

WCO Programme to support its Members



The WCO Covid-19 Project:

- ❑ **Objective:** To improve the capacity of WCO Members' Customs administrations business continuity in response to Covid-19 impact.
- ❑ **Main activities:**
 - ❑ Develop WCO Guidelines for Customs administrations to address various disruptive scenarios represented by COVID-19 and other similar emergency situations and to ensure the stability of global supply chain.
 - ❑ Promoting the use of WCO Guidelines and other relevant WCO tools, Timely dissemination of information and expertise through an update of the WCO website on COVID-19.
 - ❑ IT solutions to improve the capacity of WCO developing Members in response to emergency situations, such as COVID-19.
 - ❑ Contact: Covid19BCProject@wcoomd.org



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Thank you

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