

AT

Austria has temporarily suspended the obligation to present the Transit Accompanying Document in paper form at the Customs Offices of Transit/Destination. This documents can be submitted to the involved Customs Offices by any appropriate means of electronic communication and even the solely presentation of the MRN (e.g. in form of an SMS) of the movement is sufficient.

Furthermore, Austria's Customs Offices apply Article 306(3) UCC-IA for movements where the presentation of the goods at the Customs Office of Destination has taken place after expiry of the time-limit set by the customs office of departure. The carrier shall present a simple declaration confirming that the delay has been caused by COVID-19 measures (e.g. border controls, lack of staff at the premises of the Authorised Consignee, etc.).

[On the official web page of the Ministry of Finance we have set aside a space for sharing all information regarding customs-related measures that have been taken in Austria \(https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/zoll/Zoll-Coronavirus.html\).](https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/zoll/Zoll-Coronavirus.html)

Austria has temporarily suspended the obligation to present the Transit Accompanying Document in paper form at the Customs Offices of Transit/Destination. This documents can be submitted to the involved Customs Offices by any appropriate means of electronic communication and even the solely presentation of the MRN (e.g. in form of an SMS) of the movement is sufficient.

Furthermore, Austria's Customs Offices apply Article 306(3) UCC-IA for movements where the presentation of the goods at the Customs Office of Destination has taken place after expiry of the time-limit set by the customs office of departure. The carrier shall present a simple declaration confirming that the delay has been caused by COVID-19 measures (e.g. border controls, lack of staff at the premises of the Authorised Consignee, etc.).

[On the official web page of the Ministry of Finance we have set aside a space for sharing all information regarding customs-related measures that have been taken in Austria \(https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/zoll/Zoll-Coronavirus.html\).](https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/zoll/Zoll-Coronavirus.html)

Ces mesures sont:

1- La fermeture des bureaux de l'administration belge des douanes et accises.

Les agents travaillent principalement à distance depuis leur domicile via leur ordinateur portable et leur téléphone portable.

Ils continuent à traiter les e-mails et les appels téléphoniques aux heures habituelles.

2. La possibilité de traiter les documents papier au bureau sur rendez-vous.

Les documents papier concernés sont par exemple les T2L ou les carnets TIR.

Un agent est de permanence dans chaque bureau de douane fermé et peut recevoir le public sur rendez-vous pour les affaires urgentes et absolument nécessaires.

3. La réduction des effectifs présents sur le terrain pour les vérifications et les contrôles.

Le but est de limiter les contacts en assurant la distanciation sociale tout en assurant la surveillance requise des mouvements douaniers de marchandises et en facilitant le mouvement des biens de première nécessité.

4. La possibilité de soumettre certains documents électroniquement au lieu de sur papier.

Les licences, certificats et autorisations qui doivent normalement être présentés sur format papier peuvent à certaines conditions l'être de façon électronique.

Certains documents devant accompagner la marchandise jusqu'à un autre bureau situé dans un autre Etat membre ou devant être visés par la douane ne sont pas concernés.

Machine translation:

These measures are:

1- Closure of the offices of the Belgian customs and excise administration.

The agents mainly work remotely from their home via their laptop and mobile phone.

They continue to process emails and phone calls at regular hours.

z

2. Possibility of processing paper documents at the office by appointment.

The paper documents concerned are for example T2L or TIR carnets.

An agent is on duty in each closed customs office and can receive the public by appointment for urgent and absolutely necessary business.

3. Reduction of the staff present in the field for checks and controls.

The aim is to limit contacts by ensuring social distancing while ensuring the required surveillance of customs movements of goods and by facilitating the movement of essential goods.

4. Possibility of submitting certain documents electronically instead of on paper.

Licenses, certificates and authorizations which must normally be presented in paper format may, under certain conditions, be presented electronically.

Certain documents which must accompany the goods to another office located in another Member State or which must be endorsed by customs are not affected.

Update:

5. External communication

A single point of contact was established for companies and private persons for any question related to the COVID-19 crisis.

This point of contact is not only in charge of questions related to transit matters.

The national transit coordinator stays available aswell.

On the official web page of the Belgian administration we have set aside a space for sharing all information regarding customs-related measures that have been taken in Belgium.

There is a Q&A section as well.

The information in English is rather limited, but there is extensive information in Dutch and French.

https://financien.belgium.be/nl/douane_accijnzen/ondernemingen/corona-informatie-en-maatregelen

6. Internal Communication

Internally, the Belgian Customs administration informs all staff about relevant decisions and instructs about necessary procedure to be followed on a webpage dedicated to the COVID-19 crisis.

BG

As regards the method of carrying out the documentary checks within the customs offices, as a measure to prevent the spread of COVID 19, the officials from the customs offices have been informed to limit physical contacts with declarants, customs representatives and other economic operators and to use the existing functionalities for electronic communication including receiving additional information and supporting/accompanying documents necessary for the application of the declared customs procedure and presenting the goods at the authorized places (transit simplifications as authorized consignor and consignee)

In the transit system, however, there is not yet a possibility of attaching documents (as there is for the import and export systems) and, therefore, if supporting documents have to be presented, they still have to be available and presented on paper.

We also have no possibility for the electronic submission and processing of the CIM consignment note when used as a transit declaration. This is also relevant for paper based NATO 302 form, ATA carnets and TIR carnets as they require paper processing (validation) when used as customs declaration for transit.

From customs side we have not introduced any kind of restrictions for goods moved under transit, but there are some restrictions for trucks carrying goods introduced by other authorities and neighbouring countries, which may also affect transit movements.

For example, on 25.03.2020 due to a large queue on the Bulgarian-Turkish border, the traffic for trucks destined to Turkey was stopped at all border points of the Republic of Bulgaria for couple of hours for vehicles coming from 67 countries (including some MS) according to an Order of the Minister of Health. The Order does not apply anymore and Bulgaria does not have any specific restrictions related to COVID 19 concerning trucks coming to its territory. However, the Bulgaria administration stresses that some of its neighbouring countries (North Macedonia, Serbia and Romania) have closed some of their border posts, and trucks can pass only through certain border crossings

As a consequence of the measures to prevent the spread of COVID 19, in a lot of cases goods under transit procedure are presented at the customs office of destination after the expiry of the time-limit set by the customs office of departure.

Generally in those cases Articles 306(3) and 278(2) of IA are applicable as mentioned in the guidelines that the Commission published.

CZ

Since the beginning of the declared COVID-19 state of emergency on 13 March, the Czech Customs administration follows closely the Government decisions, instructions from the Ministry of health, Ministry of the interior and other instructions.

Internally, the General Directorate of Customs informs all staff about relevant decisions and instructs about necessary procedure to be followed. All instructions are regularly updated and published on the internal website of Customs administration.

[Externally the General Directorate of Customs publishes information on its website www.celnisprava.cz and deals individually with other relevant stakeholders \(government and other state and institutions, transport operators, companies...\).](http://www.celnisprava.cz)

The Customs department at the General Directorate of Customs is on everyday basis in contact with Customs offices through video-conferences as well as through phone and email communication with economic operators. In general, we have adopted in particular the following measures in connection with the state of emergency which apply for all customs procedures:

- Obligation to wear protective equipment and to regularly disinfect all public areas
- Restriction on movement of persons within the territory of Customs offices (entry to the building upon demand, separate rooms for post and other documents)
- Protection based on the social distancing principle (change of shifts for customs officers, partial teleworking)
- Limitation of direct contact with declarants (where possible, all documents are sent electronically)
- Reduction of physical checks of goods.

Practical implementation of the measures and further facilitation depend on the facilities and overall situation at each Customs office.

As regards transit and proof of status, most transit operations are applied in the simplified procedure, i.e. under provisions related to status of authorised consignors and consignees where physical presence of the holder of the procedure at the Customs office is not necessary. In a regular transit procedure, some customs offices accept documents relating to electronic data sent by NCTS (such as CMR, invoices) to be sent electronically (scanned by email). Where possible, alternative identification measures to sealing are accepted, in accordance with Article 302 IA. We are also flexible as regards setting up time for the presentation of goods at the customs office of departure. After the release of goods for transit, TAD is provided either electronically (scanned by email) or manually under strict restrictions and agreed procedure (left in a special post box in a separate room of the Customs office and picked up by the holder of the procedure).

In relation to the proofs of Union status (where the acceptance is needed by the Customs office) and transit procedures in a paper form (TIR, ATA, CIM), we have not introduced any extraordinary measures and usually standard procedure applies (taking into account the rules on restriction of direct contact with declarants).

CZ reports that it has not observed any noteworthy problems or obstacles and the customs transit procedures (and proof of status) continue to run smoothly.

DE

German Customs has not (yet) reported any issues and awaits coordinated and harmonised exceptional measures in the area of transit and status of goods by the EU Commission. (Remark: COM guidance has been published meanwhile).

DK

DK has not reported any specific measures.

No report received.

EE

The EE customs offices apply the following measures:
Whenever it is possible physical contact should be avoided.

The main change is that customs office of departure and customs office of destination both cases we allow send the documents by e-mail.

[eciales/ Presentacion/COVID 19/COVID 19.shtml](#)

EL

The Hellenic Customs Administration follows closely the Government decisions, as well as the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and other governing agencies and bodies involved in dealing with the crisis of COVID-19. The temporary measures that have been imposed so far by the Hellenic Customs Administration in the context of its management of the Covid-19 in general have as follows:

1. Hellenic Customs Administration has adopted a work continuity plan providing that the available staff is divided in three weekly shifts and only one shift is present on the field of work (COs' premises), while the remaining shifts continue to offer their services from their home (via teleworking), as seen below. The work continuity plan also foresees that rotation between the shifts is applied and in case where a customs officer, present on the field of work, is diagnosed with COVID-19, the whole shift will retire to their home to quarantine, while will continue offering their services via teleworking. The retired shift will be replaced by the next one. In this case also a disinfection of the work places is planned to take place before the new 1/3 takes over.

		Before measures		After measures									
		Before incident					After incident						
Week no.		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Customs officers	Shift1	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
	Shift2	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue
	Shift3	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow


 Customs officers present in COs' premises
 Customs officers teleworking

2. Aiming to limit physical contacts, the Hellenic Customs Administration has made public telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of COs and services for economic operators in order to either be informed or book an appointment related to their business or to submit documentation in electronic forms. Nevertheless it has also distinguished the services that are provided in situ (COs premises) as follows:

- a. economic operators not willing to use IT systems;
- b. individuals or lawyers settling disputes and/or differences;
- c. tax exempted individuals such as diplomats, disabled persons, etc.;
- d. drivers or other individuals submitting documentation in paper-form (carnet ATA, TIR, etc.); and
- e. individuals (passengers) during either entry or exit who have to submit cash declarations, to follow the tax free shopping procedure, etc.

For cases a, b and c, and when remote service is not possible or an in-person appointment is required, a special set of instructions has been laid providing protection measures to prevent the spread-of the virus.

For cases d and e, the above-mentioned set of instructions is applied, as well as a disinfection plan of the customs premises and an order for supplies of protective gear (suits, gloves, masks, etc.) have already been laid.

3. Hellenic Customs Administration has taken measures reducing physical controls on essential goods and mostly on medical supplies. Control of documentation in paper form is performed visually while ex-post controls are increased.

4. Hellenic Customs Administration has urged economic operators to step up the use of the national customs IT system (ICISnet) which is interlinked with EU-IT systems and offers the ability to upload all supporting documents in pdf form.

HU

Point 5.1 Flexibility for complying with transit formalities

Regarding the CIM consignment the Hungarian customs administration temporarily accepts scanned copies of the paper document(s) in the context of the procedure as well.

IE

General COVID 19 measures: all items 5 to 9 inclusive are relevant here.

Transit – all items 11 to 13 inclusive are relevant here.

Office of Departure – items 15,16, 17 & 24 inclusive are applicable here.

Irish Customs has not as yet reported any issues. There is no delay in arriving or discharging transits. We are not carrying out routine transit examinations. We continue to work with our TSF's to ensure trade is kept moving. Any interventions are risk-based and we have the capacity at this time to respond immediately.