

29 September 2020

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Committee on Trade Facilitation

(20-6601)

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OTTAWA GROUP: TRADE FACILITATION MEASURES TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA

The following communication, dated 28 September 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Canada on behalf of the Ottawa Group (Australia, Brazil, Chile, European Union, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Switzerland) for Members' information.

1. Efforts by WTO Members to address the health and economic effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic have resulted in many changes to our domestic procedures for the administration of import and export transactions. In order to support the movement of essential and other goods across borders as smoothly as possible, some Members have implemented digital solutions to make cross-border business transactions more convenient and transparent while ensuring regulatory compliance. In addition, some Members have established "green lanes" to prioritize and expedite the customs clearance processes or have suspended customs duties and/or taxes on imports to reduce costs for users of these goods.

2. The Ottawa Group has compiled a list of a number of the measures its Members have implemented over the past half-year in response to COVID-19. We share these experiences to support identifying ways to take full advantage of the opportunities for trade facilitation in the Trade Facilitation Agreement and to promote best practices for the implementation of the TFA. We look forward to hearing the experiences of other WTO Members in upcoming Trade Facilitation Committee meetings.

Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. Australia's Department of	Temporary	Expires 1	Imports of goods	Article 10:	Simplified import	G/SPS/N/AUS/497
Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) extended temporary alternative arrangements to the use of original paper import certificate requirements for a range of imported plant-based, animal, biological and animal-based goods.		October 2020	lodged under scheduled 3, Section 2 and 9 of Australia's tariff system	Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit	processes	G/SPS/N/AUS/501

BRAZIL						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. Simplification and streamlining of customs procedures for certain products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Temporary	18 March 2020/TBD	Personal protective equipment and medicines for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, such as protective masks, thermometers, hand sanitizers, and respirators	Article7.3:SeparationofReleasefromFinalDeterminationofCustomsDuties,Taxes,FeesandChargesArticleArticle7.7:TradeFacilitationMeasuresforAuthorizedOperatorsArticle10.1:FormalitiesConnected withImportationArticleArticle10.4:Single Window	COVID-19 Additional flexibility to traders	Normative Instructions RFB Nos. 1927/2020, 1929/2020, 1936/2020, 1944/2020 and 1955/2020. <u>https://receita.economi</u> <u>a.gov.br/covid-</u> <u>19/covid-19-brazil-</u> <u>en.pdf</u> <u>http://normas.receita.f</u> <u>azenda.gov.br/sijut2co</u> <u>nsulta/link.action?idAto</u> <u>=15618</u> <u>http://normas.receita.f</u> <u>azenda.gov.br/sijut2co</u> <u>nsulta/link.action?visao</u> <u>=anotado&idAto=1077</u> <u>85</u>

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BRAZIL (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
2. Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Temporary	18 March 2020 to 30 September 2020	Personal protective equipment	Article 10.1: Formalities Connected with Importation	Reduce the cost of purchase of essential goods needed to combat COVID-19	Gecex/Camex Resolutions Nos. 17/2020 (17 March 2020), 22/2020 (25 March 2020), 28/2020 (01 April 2020), 31/2020 (07 April 2020), 32/2020 (16 April 2020), 34 (29 April 2020), 34 (29 2020), 51 (17 June 2020), 51 (17 June 2020), 67 (10 July 2020) and 75 (25 August 2020) and 75 (25 August 2020) http://normas.receita.ft azenda.gov.br/sijut2co nsulta/link.action?idAto = 23977&visao=anotad
3. Implementation of a Customs Operational Center for Crisis Management to supervise, monitor and guide the customs procedures	Temporary	27 March 2020	Foreign trade of inputs and medicines for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19.	Article 10.1: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit	Expedited release of goods needed to tackle COVID-19 Additional fluidity of foreign trade	http://normas.receita.f azenda.gov.br/sijut2co nsulta/link.action?visao =anotado&idAto=1081 88

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Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
4. Prioritized transit, release and clearance of goods according to HS Classification Reference from WCO		18 March 2020	Inputs and medicines for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, such as protective masks, thermometers, hand sanitizers, respirators	Article7.3:SeparationofReleasefromFinalDeterminationofCustomsDuties,Taxes,FeesandChargesArticleArticle7.7:TradeFacilitationMeasuresforAuthorizedOperatorsArticle10.1:FormalitiesConnected withImportation,Exportation andTransitArticle10.4:Single Window10.4	Expedited release of goods needed to tackle COVID-19 Additional flexibility to traders Additional fluidity of foreign trade	http://normas.receita.f azenda.gov.br/sijut2co nsulta/link.action?idAto =15618 http://normas.receita.f azenda.gov.br/sijut2co nsulta/link.action?visao =anotado&idAto=1077 85 http://normas.receita.f azenda.gov.br/sijut2co nsulta/link.action?visao =anotado&idAto=1088 98 http://normas.receita.f azenda.gov.br/sijut2co nsulta/link.action?visao =anotado&idAto=1091 57

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BRAZIL (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
5. Temporary elimination of mport licensing requirements on certain products (e.g. vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection and syringes)	Temporary	17, 20 and 23 March 2020	Goods for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19	Formalities and Documentation	Facilitate customs procedures for the import of relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 pandemic	SECEX Portaria No. 18/2020 (20 March 2020) Noticia Siscomex Importação No. 13/2020 (23 March 2020) Notícia Siscomex 23/2020 (08 April 2020); Notícia Siscomex 12/2020 (20 March 2020); Gecex/Camex Resolutions Nos. 17/2020 (17 March 2020) and 31/2020 (07 April 2020) Notícia Siscomex 23/2020 (08 April 2020); Notícia Siscomex
5. Temporary simplification of requirements on the manufacture, import and burchase of certain products dentified as essential for use n healthcare services on the	Temporary	23 March 2020 to 18 September 2020	Goods for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19	Formalities and Documentation	Facilitate customs procedures for the import of relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 pandemic	11/2020 (17 March 2020); Gecex/Camex Resolutions Nos. 17/2020 (17 March 2020) and 31/2020 (07 April 2020) Resolution No. 356/2020 Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária (23 March 2020); Notícia Siscomex

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BRAZIL (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
7. Extraordinary and temporary criteria and procedures for the certification of good manufacturing practices for the purposes of registration and post- registration changes to active pharmaceutical ingredients, medicines and health products due to the COVID-19 international public health emergency	Temporary	Valid for 180 days from 13 March 2020	Active pharmaceutical ingredients, medicines and health products	Article 10.3: Use of International Standards	Enable fast access to essential goods needed to combat COVID-19	Resolution No. 346/2020 Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária (12 March 2020)
8. Extraordinary and temporary criteria and procedures for handling requests for regularization of personal protective equipment, medical equipment of the ventilator type and other medical devices identified as strategic	Temporary	Valid for 180 days from 20 March 2020	Personal protective equipment, medical equipment of the ventilator type and other medical devices	Article 10.3: Use of International Standards	Enable fast access to essential goods needed to combat COVID-19	Resolution No. 349/2020 Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária (19 March 2020)
9. Extraordinary and temporary criteria and procedures for handling requests for registration of medicines, biological products and products for in vitro diagnosis and post- registration change of medicines and biological products due to the COVID-19 international public health emergency	Temporary	Valid for 180 days from 18 March 2020	Medicines, biological products and products for in vitro diagnosis	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	Enable fast access to essential goods needed to combat COVID-19	Resolution No. 348/2020 Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária (17 March 2020)
10. Temporary criteria for the import of products for in vitro diagnostics	Temporary	2 April 2020	Products for in vitro diagnostics	Article 7.8: Expedited Shipments Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	Enable fast access to essential goods needed to combat COVID-19	Resolution No. 366/2020 Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária (02 April 2020)

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BRAZIL (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
11. Temporary exemption from the requirement of inexistence of national production for the import of used pulmonary ventilators, vital signs monitors, infusion pumps, oximeters and capnographs and stretchers for the transport of patients	Temporary	11 May 2020	Pulmonary ventilators, vital signs monitors, infusion pumps, oximeters and capnographs and stretchers for the transport of patients.	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	Enable fast access to essential goods needed to combat COVID-19	SECEX Portaria Nos. 25/2020 (08 May 2020) and 40/2020 (24 June 2020)

CANADA						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has recently implemented an e-Longroom initiative which created a new process for providing electronic copies of release documents to the CBSA, thereby further reducing the paper burden. CITES and Kimberley permits must still be presented in hard copy. The e-Longroom process will remain place following the pandemic.	Permanent	Ongoing	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	Simplified import process Reduced paper burden Decreased cost of doing business	There are currently 26 locations offering the E- Longroom service. CBSA plans to expand to 100 offices by end of 2021.
2. The timeframe for all payments due to the CBSA (customs duties and GST on regular imports, reassessments, penalties, etc.) was extended to June 30, 2020. This included charges on the statement of account of March due on April 1, 2020.	Temporary	27 March to 30 June 2020	All	N/A	Additional flexibility to traders Alleviated burden on businesses experiencing financial hardship	More information on the deferral of payments: <u>https://www.cbsa-</u> <u>asfc.gc.ca/publications/</u> <u>cn-ad/cn20-11-</u> <u>eng.html</u>

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CANADA (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	(Effective	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
3. The CBSA is provided a 45- day grace period for late accounting penalties. Clients did not have to submit an application to have late accounting penalties waived. This applied to transactions released from March 11 to May 26 2020, inclusively.	Temporary	11 March to 26 May 2020	All	N/A	Additional flexibility to traders Alleviated burden on businesses experiencing financial hardship	More information on the grace period for late accounting penalties: <u>https://www.cbsa-</u> <u>asfc.gc.ca/publications/</u> <u>cn-ad/cn20-10-</u> <u>eng.html</u>
4. Canada has extended by 30 days the period of 90 days for submitting corrections following a CBSA trade compliance verification where errors were found.	Temporary	18 March 2020 to present (termination date is currently under review)	All	N/A	Additional flexibility to traders Helps alleviate administrative burden	More information on the extension of the 90 day correction period: <u>https://www.cbsa-</u> <u>asfc.gc.ca/publications/</u> <u>cn-ad/cn20-09-</u> <u>eng.html</u>
5. Canada is temporarily waiving customs duties and sales taxes on all goods used in response to COVID-19 imported by or on behalf of public health agencies, hospitals, testing sites, and first response organizations, as well as public or private care residences such as seniors' residences, retirement homes, nursing homes and shelters. Canada is also waiving customs duties on certain goods for all importers, including personal protective equipment, in order to support efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19.	Temporary	16 March 2020; 7 April 2020; 5 May 2020	Medical goods	N/A	Reduced cost of imported medical goods used in response to COVID-19	<u>G/MA/W/145</u> <u>G/MA/W/153</u>

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Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. National Customs Service (SNA) - Resolution N ^o 1179 establishes new modalities for the handling of a number of procedures related to verification overseen by the Customs Service, with the view to facilitate trade, meet social distancing instructions and sanitary recommendations. These include the implementation of electronic procedures (responses to requests from customs brokers, exchanges or modifications of B&L by email and remote working of customs brokers), as well as the suspension of some deadlines deemed unmeetable due to COVID-19 outbreak.	Temporary	March 2020/TBC	AII	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies Article 10.6: Use of Customs Brokers	To protect the health of all persons in connection to trade operations. To facilitate trade operations.	G/MA/W/148 https://docs.wto.org/do l2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc .aspx?filename=S:/G/M A/W148.pdf Reso. Exenta Nº 1179/2020 http://www.aduana.cl/a duana/site/docs/20200 319/20200319112817/r esolucion n 1179 de 18 03 20.pdf
2. National Customs Service (SNA) -Resolution No. 1377/2020, amends Exempt Resolution No. 1179. Authorizes individuals and state administration bodies to make their submissions to the National Customs Directorate, by email.	Temporary	April 2020/TBC	AII	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	To protect the health of all persons in connection to trade operations. To facilitate trade operations.	G/MA/W/148/Add.1 https://docs.wto.org/do l2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc .aspx?filename=S:/G/M A/W148A1.pdf Reso. Exenta Nº 1377/2020 http://www.aduana.cl/a duana/site/docs/20200 103/20200103160956/ 1377 2020 oficina de partes.pdf

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CHILE (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
3. National Customs Service (SNA) - Resolution N° 1313, provides instructions for the importation (including donations) of essential inputs for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19. Measures include the preferential entry of such merchandises (a special code for priority in their assessment), as well as the use of simplified import declaration for expedited processing and clearance of such goods.	Temporary	March 2020/TBC	Inputs critical for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 (determined by health authority)	Article 7.8: Expedited Shipments Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	To facilitate trade operations related to inputs critical for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19.	G/MA/W/148 https://docs.wto.org/do l2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc .aspx?filename=S:/G/M A/W148.pdf Reso. Exenta N° 1313/2020 http://www.aduana.cl/a duana/site/docs/20200 326/20200326110017/r es1313 26 03 20.pdf
4. Agriculture and Livestock Service of Chile (SAG) – Measures related to phytosanitary certificates in order to facilitate trade in the context of the problems related to COVID-19. Sets-up a webpage available to all national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to verify and obtain directly from the SAG certification system an image of all original data from phytosanitary certificate. In the case of imports, SAG will accept the submission of a scanned image of the phytosanitary certificate, as an alternative for importers that do not have the original document.	Temporary	April 2020/TBC	Products of plant origin	Article 1.2: Information Available Through Internet Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	To ensure the fluidity of foreign trade in relation to measures adopted to avoid contagion of COVID-19.	G/SPS/GEN/1770 https://docs.wto.org/do l2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc .aspx?filename=q:/G/S PS/GEN1770.pdf&Open =True

EUROPEAN UNION Description of Measure	Temporary	Dates	Products	Link to TFA	Expected/Realised	Additional Details
	or Permanent	(Effective /Expiry)	/Sectors	Provisions	Benefits	Additional Details
1. VAT and duty exemption applied to certain goods procured by certain entities designed by EU MS	Still in force	30 January 2020 - 31 October 2020	Medical equipment	Article 1.4 and 1.1 b)	Reduce the cost of purchase of essential goods needed to combat COVID-19. It applies to purchasing entities listed by MS	All details on EU websites notified to the WTO and WCO <u>https://eur- lex.europa.eu/legal-</u> <u>content/EN/TXT/?uri=u</u> <u>riserv:OJ.LI.2020.103.0</u> <u>1.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ</u> :L:2020:103I:TOC
2. Border management flexibilities in conformity with/consistent with the European Union Customs Code legal framework	Still ongoing and should last till the crisis continues	20 March/	All sectors	Article 1.4 and 1.1 a)	To facilitate the trade during the COVID-19 pandemia, including measures concerning the submission of proof of preferential origin.	https://ec.europa.eu/ta xation_customs/covid- 19-taxud- response/guidance- customs-issues-related- covid-19- emergency_en
Communication from the Commission on the implementation of the Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services, 23 March 2020 –					Adjustment of procedures within the legal framework set by the EU Customs Code to speed up the trade of essential goods to cope with COVID-19	https://ec.europa.eu/tr ansport/sites/transport/ files/legislation/2020- 03-23-communication- green-lanes_en.pdf https://ec.europa.eu/tr ansport/sites/transport/ files/legislation/c20202 010_en.pdfCommission
Air cargo related customs procedures					Adjustment of air cargo customs procedures to cope with the need to facilitate the trade of essential goods	Communication from the European Commission Guidelines: Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak, 26 March 2020
						https://ec.europa.eu/tr ansport/sites/transport/ files/legislation/c20202 010_en.pdf

EUROPEAN UNION (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
Temporary measures to contain risks to human, animal, plant welfare during COVID-19					To address the specific customs related issues regarding trade of certain goods and the risks to human, animal, plant welfare taking into account COVID-19 specificities	Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/466 of 31 March on temporary measures to contain risks to human, animal and plant health and animal welfare during certain serious disruptions of Member States' control systems due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) <u>https://members.wto.o</u> rg/crnattachments/202 <u>0/SPS/EEC/20 2299 0</u> <u>0 e.pdf</u> <u>https://members.wto.o</u> rg/crnattachments/202 <u>0/SPS/EEC/20 2299 0</u> <u>0 f.pdf</u>
						0 s.pdf (This measure has been notified to the WTO SPS committee under G/SPS/N/EU/380)

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JAPAN						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. Prioritization of customs clearance for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 and other goods that require an urgent clearance to maintain the lifeline	Temporary	3 March 2020/TBD	Relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc.	Article 7.8: Expedited Shipments Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	To facilitate customs procedures for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc.	Further information: http://www.customs.go. jp/english/news/covid- 19/index.htm
2. Simplified import and export declaration forms for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc.	Temporary	3 March 2020/TBD	Relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc.	Article 7.8: Expedited Shipments Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	To facilitate customs procedures for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc.	Further information: http://www.customs.go. jp/english/news/covid- 19/index.htm
3. Exemption of customs duty and (domestic) consumption tax for imported goods which are proved to be provided free of charge	Permanent		All	N/A	To alleviate burden on those who import relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc.	Further information: https://www.customs.g o.jp/english/news/covid -19/index.htm
4. Extension of time limits for customs procedures, including those for payment of customs duties in certain cases, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Temporary	11 May 2020/TBD	All	N/A	To alleviate burden on those who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic	Further information: https://www.customs.g o.jp/news/news/202005 11 index.htm

JAPAN (Cont'd) Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
5. Refund of, reduction of, or exemption from certain customs fees, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Temporary	11 May 2020/TBD	All	Article 6.1: General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	To alleviate burden on those who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic	Further information: https://www.customs.g o.jp/news/news/202005 11_index.htm
				Article 6.2: Specific disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation		
6. Accept scanned or hard copies of export certificates	Temporary	21 April 2020/TBD	Animals, plants and their products		To facilitate customs procedures for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc.	Further information: (Plants) https://members.wto.or g/crnattachments/2020 /SPS/JPN/20 2863 00 e.pdf (Animals)
						https://members.wto.or g/crnattachments/2020 /SPS/JPN/20 2863 01 e.pdf (This measure has been notified to the WTO SPS committee unde G/SPS/N/JPN/755)

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Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. Protocol providing best practices on the importation and sale of used textiles and used shoes and how the supply chain operators conduct their operations while ensuring the health and safety of the sellers, importers, wholesalers and buyers from the risk of spread of COVID-19 virus.		11 September 2020	Used Garments (ICS 61.020) Used Footwear (ics 61.020)	Art. 5.1 (a)	Public Health protection since COVID-19 Transmission is still not clear	G/TBT/N/KEN/999/Add 2 https://docs.wto.org/do l2fe/Pages/SS/directdoo .aspx?filename=q:/G/T BTN20/999A2.pdf&Ope n=True

REPUBLIC OF KOREA						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. Accept a copy instead of the original document of the certificate of origin to impose preferential tariffs.	Temporary	March 2020 (until further notice)	All	Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	Reduced paper burden	Considering that international mail delivery service is delayed or suspended due to the pandemic
2. Omit document screening and visit inspection in the process of issuing certificates of origin in case companies recognized by the Korea Customs Service as excellent companies in export safety management.	Temporary	April 2020 (until further notice)	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	Simplified procedures related to import process	Consideration of difficulties in preparing evidential documents due to the expansion of work from home by COVID-19
3. Include surgical and protective masks, hand sanitizers and thermometers in the list of tariff exemptions for self-use of small quantities of goods.	Temporary	March 2020 (July 2020)	Masks, thermometers, hand sanitizers	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	Simplified import process	

REPUBLIC OF KOREA (Cont'd)									
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details			
4. Minimize customs clearance procedures for protective masks imported for the purposes of relief, donation and free distribution to employees by companies.	. ,	March 2020 (June 2020)	Protective masks	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	Simplified import process				

MEXICO Description of Measure	Temporary	Dates	Products	Link to TFA	Expected/Realised	Additional Details
Description of Measure	or Permanent	(Effective /Expiry)	/Sectors	Provisions	Benefits	Additional Details
 There will be special protocols to expedite the clearance of the following goods: Supplies donated to the Ministry of Health; Goods (import) in accordance with the rule for simplified procedure for imports made by the Ministry of Health and decentralized agencies of the Health Sector; Perishable goods, medicines, and health products or other essential goods. 	Temporary	(Until further notice)	Health and medical.	Article 7.8: Expedited Shipments Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies Article 10.4: Single Window	Simplified customs import process Reduced paper burden Decreased cost of doing business	More information on the website of the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) https://www.gob.mx/co fepris
2. Staff (Except priority workers) is currently working in staggered periods from 25 March 2020, with 2 officials per area in each shift, in order to provide services to customers as necessary.	Temporary	(Until further notice)	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements		
3. Assistance is provided to adults over 60, pregnant, lactating or staff with a chronic illness to carry out their work activities from their home.	Temporary	(Until further notice)	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements		

Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
4. Attention and processing of matters related to the clearance of goods, through digital means.	Permanent		All	Article 10.4: Single Window	Simplified procedures related to import process	
Presentation of documents through electronic means.						
5. Use institutional records to find out the tax situation of importers.			All	Article 1.2: Information Available through Internet	To facilitate the access information on trade operations	
6. Communication channels with CBP (USA), as well as with other authorities that act at the border.	Permanent		All	Article 8: Border Agency Cooperation	Permanent	
7. Transport services measures. Extended the validity of permits, licences and certificates for technical personnel.	Temporary	21 March 2020 (until further notice)	Federal trucking Civil Aviation Merchant navy Railway material	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	To protect the health of all persons in connection to foreign trade operations Facilitate the transport of goods and services.	

Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
 8. Suspension of legal terms, deadlines, the receipt of documents and reports, procedures, actions, proceedings, initiation, substantiation and resolution of administrative procedures, notifications, requests for reports or documents and means of challenge, as well as any administrative act that is requested from its attached public servants. All administrative procedures before the Ministry of Economy will be conducted by electronic means of communication, so the receipt of documentation is suspended physically. 	Temporary	26 March 2020 (until further notice)	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	Simplified import process Reduced paper burden Decreased cost of doing business	More information on the website of the Ministry of Economy: <u>https://www.gob.mx/se</u> <u>/</u>
9. There will be special protocols to expedite the import of: -Products and by-products of plant origin that require the presentation of an original Phytosanitary Certificate; -Merchandise subject to compliance with Official Mexican Standards.	Temporary	27.03.2020/ until further notice	Products that require the presentation of an original Phytosanitary Certificate.	Formalities and Documentation Requirements.	To protect the health of all persons in connection to foreign trade operations Facilitate the transport of goods and services. Prevent the spread COVID-19	
10. Certificates of origin, certificates of eligibility for textile goods and clothing (TPL) and certificates of quota, which by their nature require to be printed, stamped and signed, the form of delivery will be through the website designed by the Ministry of Economy.	Temporary	March 2020	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies Article 10.4: Single Window	Simplified import process Reduced paper burden Decreased cost of doing business	More information on the website of the National Foreign Trade Information Service (SNICE) <u>https://www.snice.gob.</u> <u>mx</u> and the Twitter account @SNICEmx

MEXICO (Cont'd)							
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors		Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
11. Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) has published a list of 219 priority procedures related to the disease caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus (COVID-19), including import health certificates, notices or sanitary authorizations for medicines or medical products, among others.	Temporary	April 2020	Health medical	and	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies Article 10.4: Single Window	Simplified import process Reduced paper burden Decreased cost of doing business	More information on the website of the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS): <u>https://www.gob.mx/co fepris</u> <u>https://www.gob.mx/co fepris/articulos/listado- de-homoclaves-de- atencion-prioritaria- para-la-emergencia- sanitaria-derivada-del- covid-19-actualizacion- al-publicado-el- 240420?idiom=es</u>

NEW ZEALAND						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. In April 2020, New Zealand concluded a plurilateral declaration (initially between New Zealand and Singapore) which: removes tariffs on a range of medical supplies needed for the COVID-19 response; commits not to impose export restrictions; includes commitments on NTBs; and contains commitments to expedite and facilitate the flow and transit of these products consistent with TFA obligations.	Permanent	April 2020	Health	Expedited shipments under Article 7 of the TFA	Faster clearance of goods needed to address COVID-19	

NEW ZEALAND (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
2. The New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) and its Trade Single Window enables a goods clearance process before goods arrive to New Zealand. This ensures that critical supplies i.e. PPE and test kits continue to be cleared before arrival in New Zealand.	Permanent		Health (is also being used for other goods)		Faster processing through a single point entry submission. (Trade Single Window (TSW) is an electronic channel that allow traders to submit information to and receive responses from border agencies (Customs, Ministry for Primary industries, Maritime NZ and Ministry of Health).	
3. When New Zealand went into lockdown as a result of COVID-19, The New Zealand Customs Service published on its website COVID-19 related updates for traders.	Temporary	March 2020	All	Article 1: Publication and availability of information	Information was published for traders on how Customs was helping to keep trade flowing with relevant links to other government agencies	
4. 12-month deferral of the scheduled fees and charges for Customs' clearance of imported and exported goods across New Zealand's border.	Temporary	April 2020		Article 6.1: Disciplines on fees and charges imposed or in connection with importation and exportation and penalties	Relief to importers	
5. All payments to New Zealand Customs should be made online or on deferred accounts.	Temporary	April 2020		Article 7.2: Release and clearance of goods – Electronic payments	Relief to importers	

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NEW ZEALAND (Cont'd)				-		
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
6. Implementation of e- Invoicing in New Zealand. This initiative represents a joint commitment by the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand to combine efforts through the Trans-Tasman e- Invoicing arrangement heads of agreement.	Permanent	2020	e-Procurement	Not directly linked to TFA but facilitates trade and business and supports economic recovery	As part of the Single Economic Market, both countries have agreed to create a seamless Trans- Tasman business environment across the full e-Procurement cycle. Both countries have entered into a contractual relationship with the Peppol system, a global standard for e- Procurement. By implementing global standards, New Zealand will become better equipped to participate in global trade. e-Invoicing is the foundation for the full e-Procurement digital infrastructure, aiming to improve productivity, for both public and private sectors.	
7. Notices of direction provided for New Zealand border clearance staff to clear consignments (based on an emailed copy of a health certificate where authenticity could be verified in other ways with the relevant competent authority – provided an original is subsequently sent).	Temporary	April 2020- ongoing	Primary sectors	Consistent with the TFA and supports economic recovery	Faster clearance of essential goods during COVID-19.	
8. Agreement with the EU to allow the long running meat and seafood trial to go fully paperless.	Trial basis	April 2020– ongoing	Meat and seafood	Consistent with the TFA and supporting economic recovery	Increased efficiencies, and faster clearance of essential goods during COVID-19 and beyond.	

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Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. Norwegian Customs introduced a temporary regulation giving the opportunity to economic operators to postpone the completion of customs declarations. The regulation was repealed when the situation normalised.	Temporary	From 20 March to 4 June 2020	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 7.3: Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	Simplified import process Postponement of burden	
2. The Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food introduced a temporary regulation giving an exception from the plant health regulation section 19 on import certificates.	Temporary	From 8 April to 1 October 2020	Plants etc.	Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	Reduced paper burden	
3. The Norwegian Ministry of Finance has allowed the import of donated aid with personal protective equipment without collecting customs duty and VAT.	Temporary	During the pandemic	Personal protective equipment	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements	Simplified import process	
4. Norwegian Customs introduced an electronic version of the preferential Movement Certificate EUR.1. The launch was expedited as a corona measure, but the solution is a permanent trade facilitating measure.	Permanent	From 2 April 2020	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.4: Single Window	Simplified export process Reduced paper burden Accessible 24/7	More information on the electronic EUR.1 can be found here: <u>https://www.toll.no/en/</u> <u>corporate/export/duty-</u> <u>free-status-or-lower-</u> <u>duties-when-exporting-</u> <u>to-other-</u> <u>countries/completing-</u> <u>movement-certificates-</u> <u>eur1-and-eur-med-for-</u> export-/

NORWAY (Cont'd)									
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details			
5. Norwegian Customs introduced a temporary regulation giving the carriers who have a permit for goods transport outside opening hours on roads where there is a customs office, may as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 viruses also pass during opening hours on the terms otherwise provided by the permit granted.	Temporary	23 March 2020 to until further notice	Primarily wood in the rough and wood in chips	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements;	Simplified import process Reduced paper burden				

SINGAPORE						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
1. Singapore and New Zealand launched the Declaration on Trade in Essential Goods for Combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic ("Declaration") on 15 Apr 2020. Under the Declaration, both economies agree to eliminate tariffs, refrain from imposing export prohibitions or restrictions as well as expedite the movement through sea and airports for a list of essential goods including medical, hygiene, pharmaceutical and agriculture products. The purpose of the Declaration is to facilitate trade in these essential products and ensure that they continue to flow freely to their intended destinations during the COVID-19 global pandemic.	Temporary	April 15, 2020	For products listed under Annex I and II of the Declaration Text	arrival	Expedited clearance of essential goods	More information can be found at: WTO Notification G/C/W/777 (16 Apri 2020)

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SINGAPORE (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
2. Since 31 January 2020, importers of surgical masks, particulate respirators (such as N95 masks), thermometers for measuring human body temperature, and any protective gear for medical professionals (such as isolation gown and gloves), do not require an importer's licence from Health Sciences Authority (HSA). Instead, importers only need to notify HSA of their intention to import, as well as provide information on the brand and quantity of the devices to be imported into Singapore. They must also maintain proper sales and distribution records, which might be required for submission when necessary (such as for a recall of products).		31 January 2020	Protective garments and the likes, including 3926.20, 4015.11, 4015.19, 6116.10, 6210.10/20/30/4 0/50 6216.00, 6307.90, 6505.00, 9004.90, 9020.00 Masks and respirators, including 3926.90, 4818.50, 6307.90, 9020.00 Thermometers such as 9025.19	Documentation Requirements	Simplify import procedures for these medical equipment	

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SINGAPORE (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
3. Singapore has already put in place a National Single Window (NSW) since 1989 that has put us in good stead during the COVID-19 situation. Singapore's NSW provides a single platform for Singapore's trade and logistics community to fulfil all import, export and transhipment related regulatory requirements. All customs declarations can be submitted electronically via the NSW prior to the arrival of the goods, and traders are notified when the permit application is approved or rejected. This minimises face-to-face interactions without delaying processing times and allows fees and taxes to be processed electronically.	Permanent	1 January 1989	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies Article 10.4: Single Window	Reduce administrative cost and time for traders to prepare, submit and process trade documents Reduce need for paper documentations Simplify customs documentation processing procedures	More information can be found at: <u>https://www.customs.g</u> <u>ov.sg/businesses/nation</u> <u>al-single-</u> <u>window/tradenet</u>

SWITZERLAND								
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details		
1. Accelerated border crossing for goods: green lanes Use of priority lanes ("green lanes") in road traffic for certain categories of goods. The "green lanes" set up at certain border crossings for important goods are maintained.		April 2020	Medical products, foodstuffs, packaging materials and machine parts for the medical and food industry, postal mail and fuels	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	Simplified import process	Further information: https://www.ezv.admin. ch/ezv/fr/home/teaser- page-d-accueil/a-la- une- teaser/coronavirus/mass nahmen-im- warenverkehr.html		

SWITZERLAND (Cont'd)						
Description of Measure	Temporary or Permanent	Dates (Effective /Expiry)	Products /Sectors	Link to TFA Provisions	Expected/Realised Benefits	Additional Details
2. Simplified procedures (imports) Customs declarants have the possibility of completing Swiss customs formalities before lorries arrive, so that consignments of goods are stopped at the border only in certain necessary cases.	Permanent	April 2020	All	Article 7.1: Pre- arrival Processing Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	Simplified import process	Further information: https://www.ezv.admin. ch/ezv/fr/home/teaser- page-d-accueil/a-la- une- teaser/coronavirus/mass nahmen-im- warenverkehr.html
3. Simplified procedures (exports) The "Libero Export" procedure provides a fully electronic export process, so that over 95% of consignments can be handled by the transporter without additional Swiss customs formalities.	Permanent	April 2020	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	Simplified export process Reduced paper burden	Further information: https://www.ezv.admin. ch/ezv/fr/home/teaser- page-d-accueil/a-la- une- teaser/coronavirus/mass nahmen-im- warenverkehr.html
4. Digitalisation: Electronic communication From July 2020, the possibility, via the E- Begleitdokument and E-com applications, to send documents, applications and requests directly to the customs system using an instant messaging function. Customs clearance, as well as the processing of applications and requests, will thus be considerably accelerated and simplified.	Permanent	July 2020	All	Article 10.1: Formalities and Documentation Requirements Article 10.2: Acceptance of Copies	Simplified import and export process Reduced paper burden	Further information: https://www.ezv.admin. ch/ezv/fr/home/teaser- page-d-accueil/a-la- une- teaser/coronavirus/mass nahmen-im- warenverkehr.html