



**World Customs
Organization**

What Customs can do to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

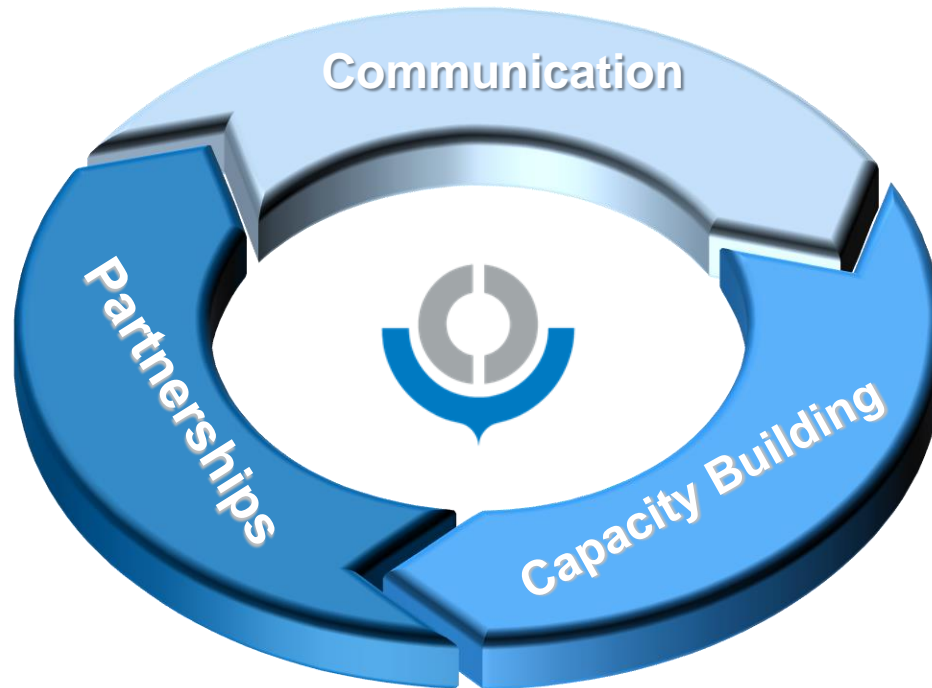
**Committee on Trade Facilitation
COVID-19 discussion panel**

Geneva, 30 September 2020

1. The 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.

COVID-19 Pandemic: WCO leadership and guidance



The newly established section on the WCO web-site hosts:

- ❑ A repository of 115 Members' practices and measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic aimed at:
 - 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 the society.*
- ❑ HS Classification reference for COVID-19 medical supplies, available in 6 languages;
- ❑ List of priority medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic, available in 6 languages;
- ❑ Secretariat Note on how to establish and utilize essential goods lists during a disaster.

WCO Enforcement measures to protect society



- ❑ Dedicated IPR CENComm group on the CENComm Platform for the exchange of enforcement sensitive information;
- ❑ Global enforcement operation “STOP”;
- ❑ Use of the Global Travel Assessment System (GTAS);
- ❑ Use of the nCEN for the collection and sharing of COVID-19 related intelligence;
- ❑ Use of the Global Rapid Alert Network (GRAN).

Partnerships - highlights



- ❑ Weekly meetings of the WCO Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG);
- ❑ Collaboration with the WHO, UN-OCHA and IFRC;
- ❑ Joint statements/letters with WTO, IMO, OTIF & OSJD, UPU, UN-OHRLLS, ICC, IRU;
- ❑ Contributed to the COVID-19 TF Repository;
- ❑ Contributed to the Global Trade Helpdesk.





Mercator Programme

A Navigational Map for Trade Facilitation

The WCO Mercator Programme aimed at ensuring uniform implementation of the WTO TFA

The WCO COVID-19 Project

- ❑ Overall objective: To ensure the security, stability and continuity of global supply chains, and to facilitate and expedite the global supply of emergency relief goods.
- ❑ Main activities:
 - Develop WCO Guidelines for Customs administrations to address various disruptive scenarios and to ensure the stability of global supply chain;
 - Promote the use of WCO Guidelines and other relevant WCO tools;
 - IT solutions improvement for information/expertise sharing.



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