

Measures undertaken in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic – Armenia

SUGGESTED PRACTICES FRAMEWORK

1. Measures aiming to Facilitate the Cross-border Movement of Relief and Essential Supplies

- Importation of a number of medical goods, also required and used in relation to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a number of basic food products is subject to 0% import duty for the periods up to the 30th of June, 2020 for some of these goods and up to the 30th of September, 2020 for other goods, in accordance with the lists, approved (amended) by the resolutions № 21 dated 16 March, 2020, № 33 and № 34 dated 03 April, 2020 of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission;
- Measures aimed at facilitating the cross-border transportation of basic necessities.

2. Measures aiming at Supporting the Economy and Sustaining Supply Chain Continuity:

- Decision No. 382-A of 27.03.2020 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “on regulating the process of importing goods to the Republic of Armenia from March 27, 2020 to May 31, 2020, including in the framework of responding to risks caused by the spread of the new coronavirus” .;
- The Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission "on amendments to some decisions of the Customs Union Commission on the approval of the list of goods imported by the Eurasian Economic Union Customs area for consumption by the Eurasian Economic Union Member States" . Decision No. 21 of 2020;
- Decision No. 33 of 03.04.2020 of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission "on making amendments to some decisions of the Customs Union Commission and approving the list of important goods for import";
- In order to ensure continued daily monitoring of import and export of goods of strategic importance in relation to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and emergency regime announced in the Republic of Armenia, including medical goods and basic food products, analytical reports based on big data analysis tools, combining information from various databases, have been developed and are used to ensure appropriate supply of such goods, as well as monitor the values thereof;
- The State Revenue Committee has ensured 24/7 operation of certain functional units of the Customs Service, including particular divisions of IT Department, also a direct communication channel with the commandant, appointed under the emergency regime announced in the Republic of Armenia, is available;
- The Eurasian Economic Commission has approved a list of critically important goods for which a

tariff exemption is provided in a form of release from import duties, in case of importation of goods into the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union member states from April 1 to June 30, 2020. The list of these products includes separate agricultural and food products, as well as a number of ready-made medicines and medical products;

- The list of products used in the production of medications has been expanded, as well as for medicinal products, the import of which is carried out from April 16 to September 30, 2020 without paying customs duties, providing that the authorized body in the field of health has approved their intended use;
- The procedure for issuing "A" type certificates is also temporary simplified for developing and less developed countries. The adopted decision allows the use of a paper or electronic copy of the above-mentioned document for a period of 6 months and allows not submitting the original certificate during the declaration;
- Due to the coronavirus epidemic, the draft law "On Amendments and Addenda to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia" was signed by the President of the Republic of Armenia, according to which from April 21, 2020, the taxpayer or tax agent pays a penalty of 0.04% for each overdue day, instead of the previous 0.075%.

3. Measures aiming at Protecting Customs administrations' Staff

- Commandant's order No. 27 of 31.03.2020;
- Work was organized electronically- circular document No. 243 of 16.03.2020;
- Provides staff with personal hygiene and protective equipment, such as thermometers, masks, gloves, disinfectants, etc.;
- In order to prevent the spread of the infection, the customs authorities have been instructed to organize the service in an alternative manner, while ensuring the uninterrupted operation of the customs authorities;
- Strict measures been taken to protect the customs department by applying the principle of social distance maintaining. Pregnant women, staff over 60 years of age, staff suffering from diabetes and / or cardiovascular and respiratory diseases been employed remotely. The number of customs officers involved in shifts at border checkpoints has been reduced for less interaction;
- On organizing activities aimed at preventing the spreading of the coronavirus in the RA State Revenue Committee, order No. 240-A of 13.03.2020, No. 241-A of 16.03.2020, No. 332-L of 1.04.2020 of the RA State Revenue Committee Chairman;
- Measures have been taken to ensure reduction in the need of face-to-face meetings of employees of different structural and functional units of the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia. Such measures include implementation and use of project management software, available not only in the SRC internal network, but also from personal computers, also for the staff working from home, reducing the need of in-person meetings of project teams, use of video-conferencing software, not only for international and interagency but also for interdepartmental

meetings and discussions.

4. Measures aiming at Protecting Society

- "Strict control over the process of transporting goods by vehicles transported to Armenia from high-risk countries" Commandant's order No. N31, Commandant's order No. N38;
- The COVID 19 Armenia application launched.

5. Other Measures