



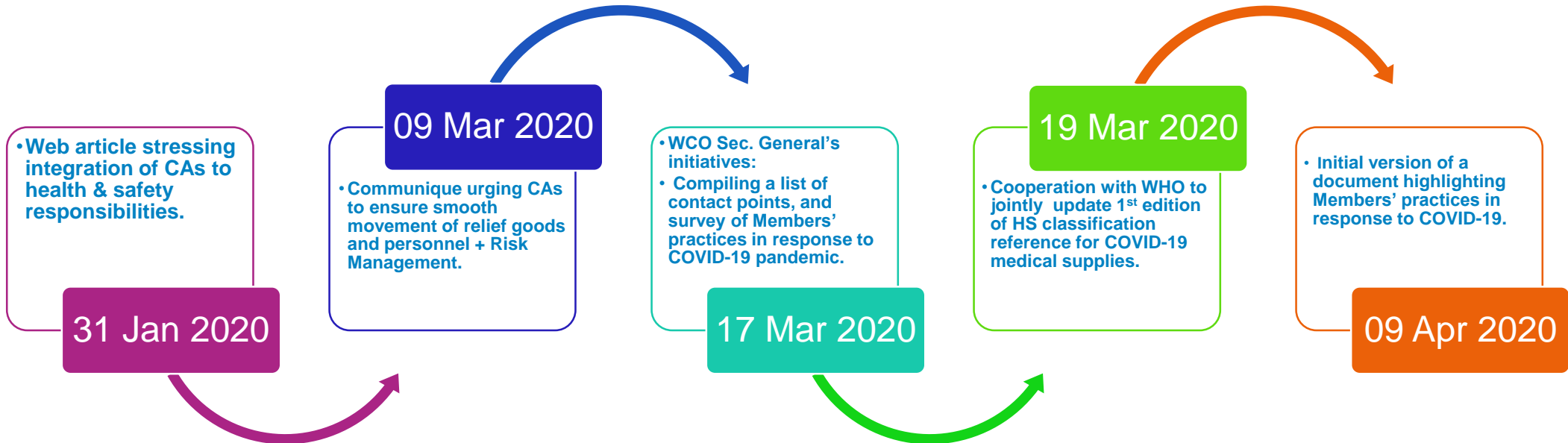
**World Customs  
Organization**



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

**WP.5 Informal Multidisciplinary Advisory Group Meeting on Transport Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis - Next Steps  
Geneva, 8 September 2020**

# 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)

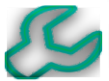
WCO published a [Secretariat Note](#) on how to establish and utilize essential goods lists (13 May 2020)

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

# WCO 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.*

# 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



## 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).

## Updates since the last Meeting of 9 June 2020



### 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](mailto:Covid19BCProject@wcoomd.org)

## Updates since the last Meeting of 9 June 2020



- ❑ The conclusion of the PTC discussion:
  - ❑ took note of the challenges, practices and lessons learned associated to the COVID-19 pandemic shared by Members and of the observations shared by private sector delegates and other observers;
  - ❑ WCO to have future work on the role of Customs in the different phases of the disaster management cycle, namely conducting a review and gap analysis of existing instruments and tools, developing a new tool dealing with business continuity and the role of Customs in the different phases of the disaster management cycle, as well as developing a database or compendium of best practices;
  - ❑ WCO to keep the topic on the agenda of future PTC meetings.
- ❑ Inclusion of the topic on the Knowledge Academy for Customs and Trade (KACT) agenda to promote the role of Customs in natural disaster relief at various fora.
- ❑ PSCG continues to meet, now once a month.



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**Thank you**

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