COVID-19 Lebanon

IMPACCT
IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

Bulletin n° 5 - CIQP : 7 August 2020
(Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

Latest updates highlighted in ==yellow==.

OBJECTIVE

This document provides a situational update on airport status and Customs entry points during the COVID-19 pandemic. ==This document also provides an update on the impact of the explosion at the Port of Beirut, on 4 August 2020.==

EMERGENCY SITUATION IN LEBANON

PORT OF BEIRUT BLAST:

==On 4 August, a warehouse at the Beirut Port exploded, causing casualties and material damage to the port and surrounding buildings. On 5 August, the Government of Lebanon declared a two-week state of emergency in Beirut. Reports indicate that more than 140 people have been killed and more than 5,000 people have been injured. A further 100 people are reportedly still missing. Search and rescue operations are ongoing. This emergency comes in the context of civil unrest, economic crisis, and a COVID-19 outbreak, causing a major burden to Lebanese public infrastructure including the transportation and health sectors.==

==The government of Lebanon has requested the following priority items for the next four days:==
- ==Food;==
- ==Paediatric products: milk, layers, pacifiers;==
- ==Medical equipment (please see this attached list for the full list of medicines – source: Ministry of Public Health).==

==After this initial 4 days, further items will be required related to reconstruction:==
- ==Steel;==
- ==Wood;==
- ==Windows.==

==The following are no longer being requested: field hospital, firefighters, search and rescue teams.==

==IMPACCT are currently liaising to collate the **national HS codes** for the products that are needed based on the list of HS codes provided by WHO and WCO.==

==Current information on chartered flights:==
==WFP have organized three relief cargo flights, from Brindisi to Beirut. The flight dates are:==

- ==Saturday 8 August 2020==
- ==Sunday 9 August 2020==
- ==Monday 10 August 2020==

COVID-19:

Number of COVID-19 cases on the date of the GHRP: 304
Number of COVID-19 cases on 6 August 2020: 5,417

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COUNTRY BRIEF

Lebanon was included in the second edition of the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) published on 6 May 2020, within the Regional Response Plan for Syria.

Internal restrictions have been imposed. The President of Lebanon declared a '*State of Medical Emergency*' on 15 March 2020. On 1 July, the Minister of Interior and Municipalities issued a memo lifting a months-long nighttime curfew and allowing businesses to open beyond midnight. Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, from 28 July until 10 August 2020, the government of Lebanon is re-imposing some preventative measures.

IMPORTATION MEASURES TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN	
Is there a Humanitarian Response Plan for the country?	No – but included in Syria RRP.
SEA PORT STATUS	
What is the status of sea ports?	**Sea ports:** Due to the warehouse explosion on 4 August, Beirut port is inoperable. **All imports and exports have been redirected to the Tripoli Port**, which is about 85 kilometres north of Beirut. Assessments are underway in coordination with the Ministry of Health to identify available capacity, material needs and operational gaps. Initial priority needs include additional medical professionals, mobile medical units (MMUs) and medication for acute and chronic conditions. Personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers is another priority, as the explosions destroyed large stocks at the Beirut Port. (source: OCHA, 5 August 2020).
AIRPORT STATUS and FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS	
What is the status of international flights?	Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport was officially re-opened on 1 July, operating at 10 per cent of capacity in comparison to operations prior to its closure and flights are operational. As per a Civil Aviation circular applying to Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport, passenger flights are now allowed at the airport under the following rules: • Passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result issued at most 96 hours before arrival. Another PCR test will be done on arrival;

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	• A health declaration form must be completed online before arrival; • Passengers are subject to medical screening; • Passengers must have an insurance to cover medical expenses in Lebanon. Further details on measures and restrictions can be found through Aviation Circular number 45/2 (28 July 2020). (source: IATA, 7 August 2020; Director General of Civil Aviation, 28 July 2020).
IMMIGRATION and QUARANTINE	
What quarantine measures apply for travelers?	Passengers must self-quarantine until the issuance of the result of their COVID-19 PCR test conducted at the Airport (24 to 48 hours). With the second negative PCR test result, they can resume activities normally. Further quarantine restrictions apply for countries where PCR tests are considered inaccurate (Iraq, African countries except: South Africa, Republic of Central Africa, Ghana, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco), please see the aforementioned Civil Aviation circular for more information on this. (source: Director General of Civil Aviation, 28 July 2020)
What lockdown and curfew measures apply?	On 4 August, the Government cancelled the general lockdown measures that had been put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. (source: UNICEF, 6 August 2020).
IMPORTATION and CUSTOMS PROCEDURES	
What **border closure** measures apply (land, sea) that affect the importation of goods?	According to an operational update, status at **airports** is as follows: • Beirut International Airport remains open for passenger and cargo flights. (source: OCHA, 5 August 2020). **Road cargo operations** are impacted by restrictions: • Foreign trucks are subject to transhipment; • There are some restrictions for road networks within cities; • There are some restrictions on cargo movement between cities or regions; • Cross-border road freight operations are affected by slight delays/disruption in local pick-up, land border restrictions, and driver/equipment constraints. (source: Agility, undated).

What measures relate to the **opening/closing times** of Customs offices?	The Syrian border with Lebanon is open for cargo movement, with a 2-5 day waiting time (source: Syrian Logistics Cluster, 12 May 2020). According to a decision of the Council of Ministers on 31 March 2020 related to the return of Lebanese expatriates from abroad, land borders with Syria will be opened through two border-crossing points at Al-Masnaa and Al-Aboudia, on 21 July 2020 and 23 July 2020 from 09:00 until 16:00 only for Lebanese citizens and their family members who are present in Syria and wish to return to Lebanon (source: Lebanon Council of Ministers, 31 March 2020).
What **other/general procedures** apply regarding the importation of goods relevant to humanitarian operators?	The port of Beirut and the international airport contain refrigerated areas designed for the storage of several kinds of merchandise including medicines and medical equipment (source: WCO, 2020).
RESTRICTIONS to EXPORTS	
What **restrictions to export** certain goods apply in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	A directive preventing the exportation of certain items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was issued on 22 February 2020. The following items were included, published on the Lebanese Customs website: • Surgical puncture resistant gloves; • Heavy duty gloves; • Boot leg and shoe cover; • Impermeable overall suit; • Surgical masks and N-95 respirator; • Impermeable hood cover and hairnet; • Disposable gowns especially impermeable protective gown; • Chemotherapy gown; • Face shield; • Impermeable boot; • Aprons; • Long sleeved gown. (source: Lebanon Customs Administration, 22 February 2020).
OTHER	
What is the availability of **UNHAS flights** to the country?	Cargo flights are available to book through the Humanitarian Booking Hub, to and from Beirut. The WFP flight schedule is as follows: **On Mondays** Cairo, Beirut, Yerevan, Bagdad, Erbil; **On Wednesdays** Cairo, Beirut, Yerevan, Bagdad, Erbil. (source: Humanitarian Booking Hub, undated). For WFP flights, there is no lockdown and special approvals are not needed in the below cases: nationalities that are exempt from visa processing prior to entry (list found on GSO website), UNLP holders, Syrian and Palestinian nationals if they fulfil the criteria of entry and residence in Lebanon applicable prior to COVID-19

	measures, travelers transiting through Syria must have proof of approved entry into Syria in order to be granted a transit visa (source: OCHA Lebanon, July 2020).
Has the country ratified Annex J-5 of the **Kyoto Convention**? If so, when?	Not ratified.
Has the country ratified Annex B.9 of the **Istanbul Convention**? If so, when?	Not ratified.
ASYCUDA user?	Yes.
ASYREC user?	No.

USEFUL LINKS

CIQP Bulletins for other countries are available here.

Country-specific:

Director General of Civil Aviation, Circular No. 45/2 (Arabic) (28 July 2020)

Director General of Civil Aviation, Circular No. 45/2 (English) (28 July 2020)

Ministry of Public Health, List of needed medicines following Port of Beirut explosion (6 August 2020)

Lebanon Republic Customs Administration, Customs Directive (22 February 2020)

Logistics Cluster, Lebanon country page

Ministry of Public Health, news page

Ministry of the Economy, news page

OCHA, Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosions Situation Report No. 1 (5 August 2020)

UNICEF, Lebanon Situation Report No. 2 (6 August 2020)

Other links:

Agility, Global Shipping Updates: COVID-19

Bollore Logistics, COVID-19 Impact Update

International Air Transport Association (IATA), Coronavirus Outbreak – Update

IATA, Government Measures Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

IATA, Air Cargo Operations status - COVID-19

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International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), COVID-19 airport status

International Organization for Migration, Points of Entry Status

International SOS, Travel Restrictions, Flight Operations and Screening

United Nations, Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19

United Nations, Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19 – May Update

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19

Wilhemnsen, COVID-19 Global Port Restrictions Map

World Customs Organization, HS classification reference list for COVID-19 medical supplies (3rd edition)

World Customs Organization, COVID-19 – WCO Updates

World Customs Organization, List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19

World Customs Organization, World Health Organization, List of priority medicines for customs during COVID-19 pandemic

World Health Organization, Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports

World Trade Organization, COVID-19: Trade and Trade-related measures

If you have any questions / comments / additions, please contact:

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