



COVID-19 Daily Commercial Update to Industry Stakeholders March 25, 2020

KEY MESSAGE

We are working with the regions to establish a process to receive certain paper documents electronically through e-mail or fax and will communicate through this bulletin as soon as the information is available.

Commercial Issues Follow-up Document now included as Annex A of daily update

Key Issues

- We continue to work on a process to facilitate the submission of certain paper documents via e-mail/fax.

Regional Information

Quebec Region (Montreal POE)

- In order to reduce your trips and those of your representative, we encourage you to use the electronic method for all requests for corrections and re-manifests using the following email addresses:
 - CBSA.Manifest-395-Manifeste.ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca (re-manifests)
 - CBSA.Commercial-395.ASFC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca (A48)
 - For questions related to the status of a transaction, you can call 514-350-6142
 - For questions related to the status of a container, we invite you to contact your shipping line
 - For general inquiries, you can contact border information officers at 1-800-959-2036
- We are monitoring the situation closely and defer to the appropriate authorities. We will adjust over the developments and keep you informed.

Other Sources of Information

- Official updates on COVID-19 are available on the [Government of Canada website](#).

Contacts

If you have any follow-up questions, please send to the BCCC at BCCC-CCACF@CBSA-ASFC.GC.CA.

Fred.Gaspar@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Office # 613-957-3511

Cell # 343-542-9240

Doug.Band@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca

Office # 613-954-7338

Cell # 613-295-5992

Border Information Service (BIS) line: Within Canada (Toll-free) - 1-800-461-9999 / Outside Canada (Long distance charges apply) - 1-204-983-3500

Annex A - Commercial Issues Follow-up document

The CBSA is aware of concerns raised by various stakeholders and it is currently exploring ways to address these concerns, where legislation permits. We are working through the following requests and sending daily communications using the Border Commercial Consultative Committee (BCCC) network.

Thank you for your patience. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the [BCCC mailbox](#).

Subject Matter	Question/Concern	Comment/Status
Essential Goods / Relief goods	Will new restrictions on Canada-US non-essential travel negatively impact the cross-border transportation of certain crucial natural goods, such as liquefied natural gas, propane, commodities and other goods?	There is no restriction on the movement of goods for the purpose of trade between the US and Canada. The intention of the usage of the word 'essential' is simply to distinguish leisure from professional activities. Government of Canada News Release
Payment/ Penalties	Would CBSA consider waiving or lowering amounts needed to be paid or secured in order to appeal as well as extend deadlines for monthly Statement of Account (SOA) payments and automatically waiving account penalties?	There is no provision in the <i>Customs Act</i> allowing the CBSA to waive the application for a request for extension as per 60.1, or that allows the CBSA to waive the requirement to pay or post security as per section 60 of the Act.
Payment/ Penalties	When can we expect to know your temporary measures for payments and penalties for duties and taxes?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-10
Payment/ Penalties	Will CBSA be lenient in allowing for incomplete or late March and April SOA payments without penalty with consideration given to the ongoing financial implications for Canadian business in the months following a return to "normal" business?	At this time, the CBSA expects importers and customs brokers to submit their payments for March 2020 SOAs on the due date of April 1, 2020 for payment of duties and Taxes.
Payment/ Penalties Timeframes/ Extensions	As retailers have been deemed non-essential services and are very concerned about the financial impact of the closure on their business with diminished cash flows, which may impact payment to the receiver general, will consideration be given to deferred or late payment?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-10

Systems	What is the status on the use of IID for non-commercial goods?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-07
Timeframes/ Extensions	During compliance verifications, CBSA issues interim reports. Will the 30 day time frame for a reply to the interim report be extended?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-09
Timeframes/ Extensions	Will the 90-day timeframe to submit B2s pertaining to a Trade Compliance Verifications be extended?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-09
Essential Goods / Relief goods	How will CBSA address the unprecedented demand and urgent need for disinfectants and hand sanitizers during the COVID-19 pandemic?	All essential and business travel will continue unimpeded. Both governments recognize the importance of preserving vital supply chains between our two countries. These supply chains ensure that food, fuel, and life-saving medicines continue to reach people on both sides of the border. Government of Canada News Release
Health and Safety	Will health checks be required for truck drivers? Will there be checks at the border/port of entry or will it only be self-monitoring by drivers and/or companies?	Transport Canada issued a media release March 17, 2020, which provides notable exceptions to the 14-day self-isolation for all arrivals. This includes individuals in the trade and transportation sector such as flight crews, truck drivers, railroaders, mariners. These workers are asked to practice social distancing (2 metres), closely self-monitor, and self-isolate immediately should they exhibit any symptoms. For full details: https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/03/new-measures-for-covid-19-response.html More information on travel advice, including a list of exempted travellers, is available on the Coronavirus website .
Vessels	Crew Transfers & Processing/Shore leave	https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-menu.htm
Timeframes/ Extensions	Would it be possible for the CBSA to consider waiving the entire application process for an extension of time to file a dispute and allow for an automatic extension to file a dispute?	There is no provision in the <i>Customs Act</i> allowing the CBSA to waive the application for a request for extension as per 60.1, or that allows the CBSA to waive the requirement to pay or post security as per section 60 of the Act.

Timeframes/ Extensions	Will extensions be granted for FAST cards and things such as Trusted Trader memberships as they begin to expire?	Resolved - Commercial drivers who hold a valid FAST card that is about to expire, need to re-apply for their membership before it expires to maintain their membership and remain valid in our systems. The CBSA website will be updated accordingly.
Payment/ Penalties	Will late accounting penalties be automatically waived / deadlines delayed?	Resolved - CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-10
Systems	Will the mandatory implementation date for Integrated Import Declaration (IID) remain April 1, 2020?	Resolved - Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CBSA will be delaying the decommissioning of the legacy OGD service options until a date later to be determined. Clients may continue using the SWI IID or the legacy service options (OGD-PARS, OGD-RMD) to obtain release of OGD regulated goods.

We acknowledge that we have received the following inquiries and will update you with responses as information becomes available.

Subject Matter	Question/Concern	Comment/Status
Systems	Will there be a hold placed any significant border modernization efforts (CARM, CERS, SWI, etc.)? Food supply chain networks are overwhelmed with ensuring continuity of business at this time.	Partial Answer only - Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CBSA will be delaying the decommissioning of the legacy OGD service options until a date later to be determined. Clients may continue using the SWI IID or the legacy service options (OGD-PARS, OGD-RMD) to obtain release of OG regulated goods.
Shipping/CLVS	Will CBSA be looking into the below options? Option 1: Allow for the use of the CLVS clearance program for freight shipped directly to Canada from overseas in the marine mode. Option 2. Allow for the use of the CLVS clearance program for overseas freight shipped directly to the United States and moved in-bond and in-transit through the U.S directly to Canada via highway truck. The freight would remain in-bond under CBP customs control and upon arrival in Canada an approved CLVS program participant will submit the required	

	documents i.e. Courier Consist Sheet for release under the CLVS program.	
Shipping/CLVS	Would it be possible for CN to work with CBSA to see if there's a way for courier shipments to be handled on rail in the relatively short term, and in relation to COVID-19 without having to develop systems or requiring change in existing regulation?	
Payment Process	Will CBSA allow Customs Brokers to pay Annual Licence Renewal by e-payments?	
Payment/ Penalties Timeframes/ Extensions	Will CBSA extend timeframes for B2 Refunds and Drawbacks and allow for electronic submission of documents as well as not issuing any Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs)?	Partial Answer only – CBSA issued Customs Notice 20-10
Border Procedures	Can CBSA provide detailed instructions for drivers on what they are expected to do when arriving at primary inspection lines (PILs)?	Partial Answer only - The CBSA recognizes that preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our facilities is important for everyone and we are taking all measures to ensure our facilities are safe, specifically following the recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Canada. These recommendations include: employees regularly washing their hands, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes on site, and increased cleaning of high-touch surfaces and work areas. The CBSA is working with external partners and specialised companies to assist in the cleaning of our facilities. Employees have continuously been reminded of how COVID-19 is transmitted in order to prevent transmission.
Timeframes/ Extensions	Will CBSA be temporarily halting new information requests to importers, relating to <i>Special Import Measures Act</i> (SIMA) inquiries? If not, will you extend the timeframe for official SIMA requests for information?	
Timeframes/ Extensions	In those situations where a time limit to request a refund or drawback under the <i>Customs Act</i> is nearing expiration consideration, will the filing deadline be extended?	

Approval Process	Will emails granting a customs broker authority to act or e-signatures on Agency agreements be sufficient when CBSA requests proof of such authority?	
Timeframes/ Extensions	The Chamber of Commerce notified CBSA that there are a lot of US carnet holders as well as other foreign carnet holders with goods currently in Canada under a carnet that may not be able to re-export the goods on the carnet from Canada prior to the expiry date of the carnet, depending how long this continues. Will we receive policy guidance if that does occur?	
Paper processing issues and electronic alternates	Surety Association of Canada recommends digital bonds to minimize the impact and/or delays resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. Will this be an option?	
Paper processing issues and electronic alternates	<p>Will CBSA accept by email, release requests including required attachments, that currently can be filed only as hard copy?</p> <p>Will CBSA accept by email, requests for the temporary entry of goods?</p> <p>Employees of customs brokers and importers working from home often do not have access to fax machines. Faxes are required for RMD corrections. CBSA Montreal already has this process in place. Will this option be extended to all ports?</p>	