



**Republic of Zambia**

**NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR  
SCREENING FOR COVID-19 FOR  
TRUCKS FERRYING ESSENTIAL  
COMMODITIES INTO ZAMBIA**

**APRIL, 2020**

## **Abbreviations/acronyms**

COVID- 19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
MOH	Ministry of Health
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
WHO	World Health Organization

## **1.0 Introduction**

The outbreak of the coronavirus disease in December 2019 was declared in China which originated from Wuhan City, Hubei Province. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has highlighted the challenge of protecting the health of the population whilst avoiding disruptions to the movement of goods and essential services across the Country. The World Health organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a pandemic on 30 January 2020. This has necessitated certain restrictions in travel which also includes the movements of goods and persons.

Therefore, border control measures are necessary to prevent the spread of the virus. However these measures should not undermine the continuity of economic activities and should preserve the operation of the supply chains. Unobstructed transport of goods is vital to maintain availability of goods. More generally, such measures should not cause serious disruption of supply chains of essential services of interest to the national economy.

## **1.2 Objective of the guidelines**

The following are the objectives for the guidelines:

- Regulate the movement of goods during the pandemic
- Limit the spread of COVID- 19 through cross border transporters;
- Facilitate the implementation of national COVID-19 measures in cross border transportation;
- Facilitate interstate flow of essential goods under listed.

Focus during the pandemic should be placed on movement and clearance of essential goods at all borders/dry ports which shall include;

- i. Protective equipment, medicines and medical supplies
- ii. Food supplies, additives, ingredients and packaging material

- iii. Agricultural inputs and commodities
- iv. Fuel and other energy related supplies
- v. Security, emergency and humanitarian relief services
- vi. Chemicals and other hazardous substances
- vii. Industrial raw materials for local production and export

## **2.0 Health measures at the Port of entry**

- i. Health personnel must be the first point of contact for all drivers to ensure screening is done before proceeding for clearance to other border agencies
- ii. Standard Infection Prevention and Control measures such as hand washing with soap and or use of hand sanitizer for disinfection should be strengthened. (refer to SI 21 and 22 of 2020)
- iii. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks should be worn as a barrier at all times by all border personnel and drivers
- iv. Provision of safe water and adequate sanitary facilities at all ports of entry
- v. To ensure effective and quick screening of drivers at ports of entry, the following measures need to be applied:
  - a. Adequate health personnel should be allocated at all ports of entry for quick screening and timely release for trucks and other cargo
  - b. Provide appropriate protective equipment to all personnel at the port of entry
  - c. Ensure that all relevant forms required at the port of entry are available at all times.
  - d. Well organized screening points with adequate equipment (thermometers/thermal scanners) should be provided and the following shall include the screening process;
    - Checking for temperature for all drivers

- Completion of a Public Health Passenger Locator Form at the port of entry upon arrival;
  - Completion of Maritime Declaration of Health for all arriving by ships, indicating all ports visited;
- e. Drivers with Covid-19 symptoms should not be allowed to travel but transferred to an isolation facility. All contacts of the driver to be disclosed for effective contact tracing. However, the truck after disinfection shall be allowed to pass through with another driver who shall undergo the screening process
  - f. Information on contact details for point of destination for all drivers to be collected for follow up and continuous surveillance by Health personnel
  - g. All drivers whose goods have been cleared to proceed to point of destination under security escort till point of offloading
  - h. The driver shall not ferry any unauthorized passengers; official paper work to that effect must be provided
  - i. Drivers are expected to fill in a trip sheet (log book) which will be signed off by Government officials to monitor movement at every Weigh Bridge and designated truck parking stops. The trip sheet will indicate the destination, stop and time. The sheet to be deposited at the last weigh bridge of point of exit
  - j. The driver shall not be allowed to stop the truck at any location with exception of the cargo destination or designated truck parking stops
  - k. All Zambia drivers to self-quarantine for period of 14 days after offloading
  - l. Foreign drivers are required to proceed back to their country immediately after offloading where they will self-isolate and similar screening process shall be done until they exit Zambia

- m. Information on drivers to be communicated to health personnel at points of destination/exit for continued follow up and compliance to self-quarantine measures
- vi. All trucks should be disinfected with approved disinfectant as they arrive and exit the port of entry including dry ports
- vii. There should be Provision of information Communication and Education (IEC) materials on prevention of COVID 19 for drivers arriving at the port of entry, in transit and exit points. Information provided should include;
  - a. Observation of best hygiene practices as they move in the border premises and outside, including covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands with soap / using hand sanitiser; and avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - b. Maintaining social distance between individuals as well as all border clearance agencies (2meters)
  - c. Covering the nose and mouth with a mask
  - d. During waiting time at the port of entry, drivers to be confined to their trucks and not mingle with the community and other persons at the border
  - e. While in transit, ensure rest is done in individual trucks at designated parking spaces with sanitary facilities and manned by health and security personnel
  - f. In the event that a trucker is unwell during transit, health officials can be contacted on the following emergency numbers-, **260 953898941, 260 964 638726, 260 974 493553** and **909 toll free line**

## **2.1 Clearance processes by customs and other border agencies**

- i. The clearance process under customs, immigration and other border agencies should accord priority to the transportation of essential goods and services as listed above.
- ii. Zambia Revenue Authority as lead agency to ensure that ASCYUDAWORLD connectivity is strengthened to avoid system failures that may allow for long queues at the Port of entry
- iii. Importers and exporters should be encouraged to undertake pre-arrival processing of goods that is pre-registration and pre-clearance of goods to reduce congestion and dwell time at the border
- iv. Physical inspection should be carried out only where it is necessary. However, where border joint Inspection is not done, inspection at point of destination shall be conducted by relevant agencies
- v. Border agencies that require permits, licences and certificates should expedite the provision of such documentation to avoid unnecessary delays at the ports of entry. By this guideline, all such officers dealing with issuance of these documents shall be regarded as essential workers
- vi. Secure parking facilities for trucks in transit

## **2.2 Measures at inland ports**

- i. There should be adequate health personnel at all inland ports to ensure quick screening process
- ii. All inland ports to be provided with sanitary facilities like portable toilets and water bowsers/hand washing facilities with soap and hand sanitizers
- iii. There should be designated parking spaces with sanitary facilities to be provided at the resting places which shall be manned by health and security personnel at all times
- iv. No unauthorized passengers in the trucks
- v. Drivers to carry sufficient water and soap for hygiene purposes

- vi. Disinfection of trucks on departure and arrival should be done as well as washing of hands

### **2.3. Measures at point of destination**

- i. Drivers and off-loaders to wear masks as goods are being offloaded from the trucks

### **2.4 Measures after offloading**

- i. All Zambian drivers to be self-quarantined for a period of 14 days after offloading of goods at the point of destination
- ii. Foreign drivers are required to proceed back to their country immediately after offloading where they will self-isolate and similar screening process shall be done until they exit Zambia
- iii. Foreign drivers will be expected to maintain trip sheets and only stopping at designated truck stops until they exit the country
- iv. Drivers proceeding back to their Country of origin to continue wearing masks and maintain hygiene
- v. Follow up to be done by health personnel on these drivers and those who show symptoms to be quarantined at the designated health facility

### **3.0 Self Quarantine**

Self-quarantine is mandatory according to SI 21 and 22 of 2020, it is therefore important for the individuals to comply with the provisions of the SI to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 as well as prosecution. Authorized officers shall ensure that self-quarantine is enforced and adhered to.



**Note: The guidelines are subject to review depending on the evolution of the pandemic.**

### **References**

Draft SADC Guidelines on Harmonization and Facilitation of Cross Border Transport Operations across the Region during the COVID-19 Pandemic, SADC/CM-EM/1/2020/4

European Union, COVID 19 Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services. 16 March, 2020

Ministry of Health, News Zealand, COVID-19 – Border controls

Updated WHO recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. 29 February, 2020