



Princeton Foundation for Peace & Learning

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www.pfplus.org

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June 3, 2021

Ref: Transportation of medical and humanitarian supplies for Covid relief in India: Status Update

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

On behalf of the communities being ravaged by Covid-19, Princeton Foundation sends you sincere appreciation for your offer of help and philanthropic donations. A significant number lives will be saved with the support you are providing.

We are working closely with Govt of India, its various ministries, and Indian Embassy/Consulates in US, to expedite the free shipment process. Currently, these agencies are prioritizing the shipment of following items at the recommendation of Ministry of Health, Govt of India (SOP attached) –

- Oxygen cylinders with 10 liters and 45 liters LMO capacity
- Oxygen concentrators
- Remdesivir
- Tocilizumab
- Ventilators/ BIPAP
- Viral RNA extraction (VRE)
- RT-PCR kits for detection of Covid
- Viral Transport Medium (VTM)
- Magnetic Stands (MT)
- ECMO Machines
- Amphoterecin B Injections
- POSACONAZOLE Injections

We continue to discuss with Government agencies the urgency of shipping medical items, even those not included in the above list (such as PPEs, Masks etc). We are also discussing with some Non-Government agencies for the expedited shipment of these items. We will keep you updated and hopefully start the shipment of your items very soon. Meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact us if you ever need any information.

Once again, please accept our sincere appreciation of your generous offer.

Sincerely,

Dr (Mrs) Raminder Pathak
Chairperson



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“India Calling”: Princeton Foundation Task Force

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NITI Aayog

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for facilitating free transportation for donations for COVID Relief (19/5/2021)

With an aim to reaching out to a large number of people across the country in the fight against the second wave of Coronavirus, Government of India will facilitate transportation for donations for COVID Relief.

1. The Government will absorb the cost of transportation only in the following cases :
 - i. **Private to Government,**
 - ii. **Private to the Indian Red Cross,**
 - iii. **Private to the State Government,**
 - iv. **Private to the Public Sector** who will provide the service and distribution free of cost.
 - v. **Private to the Charitable institutions** who will provide the service and distribution free of cost.
 - vi. **Private to the Philanthropic Organisations** who will provide the service and distribution free of cost.
 - vii. **Philanthropic to Philanthropic Organisations** who will provide the service and distribution free of cost.

No private to private transportations of goods will be financed by Government of India.

2. Donor will be responsible for appropriate packaging, local transportation needs of the relief consignment. They will bear the expenses to the port of departure in the country of origin.
3. At the port of arrival in India, the recipient State Government/Public Sector Organization/Philanthropic Organization/Charitable organization should receive the goods and shall be responsible for their transportation to the intended destination. Goods not received by any intended recipient within a week of their arrival may be handed over to the Indian Red Cross.
4. This will be applicable only for Priority items of Health Ministry and items included in the Notification No. 28/2021- Customs dt. 24th April, 2021. (**Annexure –A**).

Filled oxygen cylinders should not be accepted for transportation by air at government's expense

5. The quantity of the Priority items being donated should be above the threshold level and with the specifications as in **Annexure – B**.

6. The Donor upon approaching Indian Mission with a request for providing free transportation for their donations, the Mission will vet all such proposals before recommending to MEA. Missions will mark a copy of such proposal to MoHFW and NITI Aayog.

NITI Aayog which is the nodal body for processing all such proposals will consult MEA from political angle before seeking its internal approval. The approved proposal will be recommended to The Empowered Group II under MoRTH for consideration.

The Empowered Group-II will clear such proposals on a case-by-case keeping in view the purpose, need and urgency of such donation. The Process Flow has been explained in **Annexure – C**

7. Such donations should fully comply with the Ministry of Finance Ad hoc Exemption Order No. 2/2021-Customs dated 3 May 2021 on free-of-charge use of the equipment/medicines by recipient institution in India.
8. The concerned State Government will verify the credentials of the recipient charitable/philanthropic organization. The recipient Philanthropic Organization/Charitable organization will execute an undertaking to the State Government concerned that the donation consignment so received will be used for providing free services or for distribution free of cost.
9. Missions will explore offer of free service by international logistics companies/airlines to extent possible and cost towards filling last minute gaps etc will be conveyed by Missions to MEA and NITI Aayog.
10. The donor may be asked to sign an undertaking that the Government of India shall not be held responsible for any delay in delivery, non-delivery, theft, loss or risks during transportation.
11. Duration of this facility will be valid till **30th June 2021.**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE)

Ad hoc Exemption Order No. 4/2021-Customs

New Delhi, the 3rd May, 2021

G.S.R. (E)...- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, under exceptional circumstances prevailing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts the goods of the description as specified in the notifications listed in the Appendix below, falling within the Chapter, heading, sub-heading or tariff item of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) as specified in the said notifications, when imported into India, from the whole of the integrated tax leviable thereon under sub-section (7) of section 3 of the said Customs Tariff Act, read with section 5 of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (13 of 2017), subject to the conditions specified in the Annexure to this exemption order.

2. This exemption order shall remain in force upto and inclusive of the 30th day of June, 2021 and shall also apply to goods which are pending for clearance on the date of issue of this order.

Appendix

S.No.	Notification
1.	Notification No. 27/2021-Customs, dated the 20 th April, 2021 [G.S.R. 284(E), dated the 20 th April, 2021]
2.	Notification No. 28/2021-Customs, dated the 24 th April, 2021 [G.S.R. 286(E), dated the 24 th April, 2021]

Annexure

Condition No.	Condition
1.	The said goods are imported free of cost for the purpose of Covid relief by a State Government or, any entity, relief agency or statutory body, authorised in this regard by any State Government.

2.	The said goods are received from abroad for free distribution in India for the purpose of Covid relief.
3.	Before clearance of the goods, the importer produces to the Deputy or Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be, a certificate from a nodal authority, appointed by a State Government, that the imported goods are meant for free distribution for Covid relief, by the State Government, or the entity, relief agency or statutory body, as specified in such certificate.
4.	The importer produces before the Deputy or Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be, at the port of import within a period of six months from the date of importation, or within such extended period not exceeding nine months from the said date as that Deputy or Assistant Commissioner of Customs may allow, a statement containing details of goods distributed free of cost duly certified by the said nodal authority of the State Government.

[F.No. CBIC-190354/2/2021-TO(TRU-I)-CBEC]

Gaurav Singh
(Gaurav Singh)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II, SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE)

Notification No. 28/2021-Customs

New Delhi, the 24th April, 2021

G.S.R. (E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), read with section 141 of Finance Act, 2020 (12 of 2020), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts the goods of the description specified in column (3) of the Table below, falling within the Chapter, heading, sub-heading or tariff item of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) specified in column (2) of the said Table, when imported into India, from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon under the said First Schedule and the whole of health cess leviable thereon under section 141 of the said Finance Act, namely-

Table

S.No.	Chapter, heading, sub-heading or tariff item	Description
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	9019 20, 9804	Oxygen concentrator including flow meter, regulator, connectors and tubings.
2.	2804 40	Medical Oxygen
3.	8421 39	Vacuum Pressure Swing Absorption (VPSA) and Pressure Swing Absorption (PSA) oxygen plants, Cryogenic oxygen Air Separation Units (ASUs) producing liquid/gaseous oxygen.
4.	7311	Oxygen canister.
5.	9018	Oxygen filling systems.
6.	7311	Oxygen storage tanks
7.	9018	Oxygen generator
8.	7311	ISO containers for Shipping Oxygen
9.	7311, 8418 or 8419	Cryogenic road transport tanks for Oxygen
10.	7311, 8418 or 8419	Oxygen cylinders including cryogenic cylinders and tanks
11.	Any Chapter	Parts of goods at S.No.1 and 3 to 10 above, used in the manufacture of equipment related to the production,

		transportation, distribution or storage of Oxygen, subject to the condition that the importer follows the procedure set out in the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017.
12.	9019	Any other device from which oxygen can be generated
13.	9018 or 9019	Ventilators, including ventilator with compressors; all accessories and tubings; humidifiers; viral filters (should be able to function as high flow device and come with nasal canula).
14.	9018	High flow nasal canula device with all attachments; nasal canula for use with the device.
15.	6506 99 00	Helmets for use with non-invasive ventilation.
16.	9019	Non-invasive ventilation oronasal masks for ICU ventilators.
17.	9019	Non-invasive ventilation nasal masks for ICU ventilators.
18.	3002	COVID-19 vaccine.

2. This notification shall remain in force upto and inclusive of the 31st July, 2021.

[F.No. 354/3/2021-TRU]

(Gaurav Singh)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

List of Priority items Threshold Number and Specifications

Sl. No.	Item	Minimum Threshold Quantity	Minimum expected specifications
1.	Oxygen Cylinders	100	Minimum 10 ltrs
2.	Oxygen Concentrators	30	5LPM and 220 Volt
3.	Bipap/ NIV	30	
4.	PSA Oxygen Generation plants	1	At least 500 LPM capacity
5.	Ventilators	15	Should have NIV facility & inbuilt compressor
6.	ECMO machines		
7.	(i) Remdesivir (ii) Tocilizumab (iii) AMPHOTERICIN B injection (iv) POSACONAZOLE injection		

Process Flow

