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Committee on Market Access

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**UNILATERAL MEASURES RELATING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE IMPORTATION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES,
INCLUDING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA

The following communication, dated 11 May 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Canada.

1. Canada wishes to notify World Trade Organization Members of recent additional unilateral trade-facilitative measures undertaken in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
2. Canada is waiving otherwise applicable customs duties on imports of specified medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), in order to support efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. The *Certain Medical Goods Remission Order (COVID19)* is effective 5 May 2020 until further notice.
3. Relief is available to all importers of specified goods including businesses, distributors, and individual Canadians. Key categories of products covered by the measure include diagnostic test kits, face and eye protection, gloves, protective garments, disinfectants/sterilization products, medical devices, thermometers, wipes, and medical consumables, and other goods (e.g., soap).
4. The scope of relief is based on the indicative list of medical supplies and PPE identified jointly by the World Health Organization and the World Customs Organization as critical for combatting COVID-19¹, as well as related classification guidance by the Canada Border Services Agency².
5. Further details can be found at the Canada Border Services Agency Customs Notice 20-19, available here: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-19-eng.html> and the following Government of Canada new release: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/05/government-provides-tariff-relief-to-importers-of-certain-medical-goods.html>.
6. Existing relief for public health bodies, first responders, and care residences, as notified under G/MA/W/145, will also continue to remain in effect as long as warranted by the COVID-19 situation.
7. Canada will continue to monitor the evolving situation and may implement additional measures, should it be deemed necessary.

¹ Available here: http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/nomenclature/covid_19/hs-classification-reference_2_1-24_4_20_en.pdf?la=en

² Available here: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-12-eng.html>