



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

COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA

The following communication, dated 16 May 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Canada.

1. Canada wishes to inform World Trade Organization Members of a recent update to the unilateral tariff-easing measures undertaken in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
2. Canada previously informed Members in [G/MA/W/153](#) that it was 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 (COVID-19)* was effective as of 5 May 2020.
3. The tariff relief for specified goods was made available to all importers, including businesses, distributors, and individual Canadians. This action reduced the cost of importing these goods, with the primary goal of better equipping Canadian businesses, essential service providers, and Canadians with necessary medical supplies, including PPE.
4. Since its implementation, Canada has continued to monitor the usage of the temporary Remission Order, as well as domestic supply and demand of medical goods, and has concluded that domestic shortages of medical goods, including PPE, have been resolved and Canada is no longer in an emergency scenario that warrants this temporary tariff relief.
5. As such, Canada announced on 14 April 2022 that it was repealing the *Certain Goods Remission Order (COVID-19)*.¹ The entitlement to the relief of customs duties on imported goods provided under the *Order* ended on 7 May 2022. Goods already in transit to Canada prior to the date of effect of the repeal may continue to benefit from relief under the temporary Remission Order, subject to the conditions specified therein. Importers of eligible goods imported from 5 May 2020 to 7 May 2022 inclusively will continue to be able to claim the relief within two years of the date of importation.
6. In addition, the tariff relief for public health bodies, first responders, and care residences, as reported in [G/MA/W/145](#), also ended on 7 May 2022.²
7. Canadians will continue to benefit from other relief implemented by the Government to make PPE more affordable for Canadians, including the removal of the GST/HST from the purchases of face masks and face shields announced in December 2020, which remains in place until face coverings are no longer broadly recommended by public health guidelines.

¹ <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn22-08-eng.html>

² <https://cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn22-09-eng.html>