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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures  
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

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**MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES REGARDING  
ANIMAL, AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CONSIGNMENTS  
IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONA PANDEMIC**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

The following document, received on 4 May 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United Arab Emirates.

Within the framework of integration and cooperation between government agencies in the United Arab Emirates, and in light of the global outbreak of the Corona pandemic, and to ensure the smooth flow of animal, agricultural and food commodities and consignments in line with the precautionary measures implemented in the country, a set of measures has been taken in coordination with the concerned authorities in the UAE and the relevant exporting and importing countries, as follows:

1. Coordinating with the countries on the approved forms and mechanisms related to phytosanitary certificates and food product export certificates, developing alternative solutions, such as adopting electronic health certificates forms and agreeing to verification procedures of certificates in order to reduce the use of paper health certificates.
2. Temporarily suspending the request of some documents for vegetable and fruit consignments imported to the country due to the difficulty of obtaining them by the exporters in the country of export, and working to increase the number of samples that are randomly picked from the consignments at the entry points, so as to ensure their compliance with the relevant health and technical requirements.
3. Facilitating the entry of imported food consignments and allowing the circulation of products without prejudice to the requirements of the labelling items related to the safety of the products stated in the following technical regulations:
  - Technical Regulation No. UAE.S9: Labelling for Pre-packaged Food Stuffs.
  - Technical Regulation No. UAE.S GSO 2233: Requirements of Nutritional Labelling.
  - Technical Regulation No. UAE.S GSO 2333: Requirements for Health and Nutritional Claims Permitted for Use in Food and Conditions of Use.
4. Taking all precautionary measures in coordination with the countries in a manner that guarantees the safety of the domesticated pets imported to the country and that they are free of any pathological symptoms.
5. Increasing the work capacity in the Ministry's national laboratories and conducting the necessary testing of samples, thus allowing the rapid release of consignments imported to the country.

6. Extending the validity of expired certificates and licenses for an additional three months, to ensure that consignments arriving to the country do not get detained at entry points due to the expiry of registration certificates and licenses.
  7. Extending the validity period of import permits for an additional period of three months, to allow the continuous flow of goods, consignments and commercial movement.
  8. Suspending delay penalties that may be imposed on some services for a period of three months, to prevent obstruction of any imported or exported consignments.
  9. Allowing the amendment of data of some valid permits, in order to ensure the smooth flow of commercial movement in light of the current circumstances.
  10. In view of the restricted travel and transportation conditions, the use of visual technology programs (video meetings) has been activated to ensure the completion of some services which involve travelling to other countries, such as renewing the accreditation of slaughterhouses that requires a visit, so that the current conditions do not hinder the import procedures from these countries.
  11. Applying all occupational health and safety measures and providing all health and safety requirements for all employees at land, air, and sea entry points, as well as dealers, in order to guarantee their safety.
  12. Activating emergency, crises and response plans in a way that ensures the flow of animal, agricultural and food consignments to the country.
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