TBT Trade-related Bottlenecks and Trade-Facilitating Measures on Critical Products to Combat COVID-19

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**Background**

**Key message**: Goods and inputs need to flow efficiently and expeditiously to support the rapid scaling up of COVID-19 production capacity worldwide. Therefore, *trade policy matters!*

**Source**: Information gathered during WTO organized events & Multilateral Leaders Task Force outreach with stakeholders.

**Methodology**: Compiling and categorizing possible bottlenecks and trade facilitating measures

**Disclaimer**: Information is presented in no particular order, and no judgement is made on the effect or significance of the reported bottlenecks.

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**Indicative list of trade-related bottlenecks and trade-facilitating measures on critical products to combat COVID-19**

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See: [Joint indicative list of critical vaccine inputs](https://example.com) (07.2021)

Shelf-life of COVID vaccines is 6-9 months
Regulatory approval
Registration and Authorization, Release

**SLOW TRACK**
- Rely on WHO EUL or approval by another NRA; share regulatory documentation between NRAs
- Different requirements for application and authorization

**FAST TRACK**
- Retesting of vaccines prior to release
- Use batch release from producing country

+2 weeks

+2-4 weeks

Many of the regulatory aspects have to be concluded before exportation takes place.
Regulatory approval
Post-approval changes and scaling-up production

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**SLOW TRACK**

- Post-approval changes: lack of accelerated process; uncoordinated between NRAs

**FAST TRACK**

- Expedite approval of new production sites and strengthen regulatory capacity
- +1 day – 2 months

- Enhance reliance; make scientific advice from NRAs to manufacturers publicly available
- Delay in approvals & inspections needed to scale up production
- +Less than a week

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Full (re-) approval of donated vaccines

Waive requirements for approval of donations – on each supply chain and facility

Shelf-life expiry of vaccines doses

Shelf-life of COVID vaccines is 6-9 months

Vaccine administered

+ 2 days – 2 weeks
Thank you!

Resources:

WTO Reports on COVID-19: [Link]

Indicative list of trade-related bottlenecks and trade-facilitating measures on critical products to combat COVID-19 (10.2021): [Link]

Summary of notified export restrictions and trade facilitating measures relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic (10.2021): [Link]

Infographic – The global race to vaccinate: [Link]