Delivering medical technologies and vaccines to end users

The role of international trade

Roy Santana
Market Access Division
WTO

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International trade plays a vital role in the development, manufacturing and delivery of the COVID vaccines

In this presentation

1. Vaccine development
2. Domestic approval (Manufacture)
3. Vaccine manufacture
4. Domestic approval (Importer)
5. International distribution
6. Border clearance
7. Domestic distribution & surveillance

WTO Sec. (11.2020): Developing & delivering covid-19 vaccines around the world - A checklist of issues with trade impact + Infographic

WTO Sec. (12.2020): An information note about issues with trade impact
Vaccine manufacture

3

Domestic & global sourcing

Export procedures

Raw materials

Vaccine

Packaging materials

Packaging and labelling

Approval by domestic authority (Exporter)

Lot release

Import procedures

COVID-19 TRADE CONTROLS

Quality control representing up to 70% of manufacturing time

Several hundred quality control tests

Inspection by regulatory authority (exporter + importer)

Good manufacturing practice
4 Domestic approval  
(Importer)

Domestic approval  
(repeat step 2)  
OR  
Use step 2 approval  
(WHO or foreign regulator)

4 APPROVED

- Approved by regulator
- Approval of manufacture facility
- Approved for market  
(labelling, packaging)

Procurement

Public  
COVAX  
Private

International distribution

5 Shipments

- Cold chain integrity
- Customs
- IP border measures
- Transit

A vaccine typically travels through several different sites before being ready for shipment

Good distribution practice
APPROXIMATELY

15k
FLIGHTS, AND

15m
DELIVERIES IN COOLING BOXES
WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SHIP

200k
MOVEMENTS BY PALLET
SHIPPERs, AND

10 billion
DOSES IN THE STRINGENT AND
CONVENTIONAL SCENARIO.

Source: DHL, McKinsey
6 Border clearance

- Customs & other border agency approval
- Inspections & controls
- Cold chain integrity
- Tariffs, other duties & charges, internal taxes
- IP border measures
- Customs release decision

Distribution

Last-mile delivery

7 Domestic distribution & surveillance

- Waste management
- Action by health and regulatory surveillance authorities
- Action by market surveillance & enforcement authorities
- Sub-standard & falsified
- Counterfeit

Source: WTO, based on EMEA, IEPMA. For clarity of presentation, the different steps in the vaccine value chain are presented sequentially. To expedite access, in practice, different steps are being undertaken in parallel. *IP may be generated at multiple steps in the vaccine trade value chain.
Thank you!

Roy Santana
Market Access Division
Roy.Santana@wto.org