

# SPEDLOGSWISS

**Circular Nr. 001/2020**

**To our member companies**

Basel, January 30, 2020

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## **Coronavirus epidemic. Current state of affairs regarding goods transport to, from and in China**

Dear Sir or Madam

The coronavirus epidemic, triggered by the 2019 "novel coronavirus" 2019-nCoV, which first became conspicuous in 2019, started in December 2019 and January 2020 from the Chinese city of Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province. The danger situation for people, the official measures taken worldwide and thus also the effects on the forwarding industry are constantly changing. With this circular we would like to present a brief current interpretation.

The Government of Zhejiang Province and Guangdong Province announced that the holiday at the beginning of the new year will be extended until midnight on February 9, 2020.

The Hong Kong Government announced the extension of the moonlight holiday until February 2.

Our contacts in mainland China have spoken to several customers, shippers and factories, most of whom would follow the government's announcement.

Forwarding agents in the city centre of Shanghai:

- Basically they will follow the announcement of the local government
- In central China, most airlines have extended the holiday until midnight on February 9, 2020.

In southern China was announced the extension of holidays until certainly February 9, 2020.

While China is in the last days of the public holidays, the various provincial governments are tending to adopt a joint approach to ensure that shops do not reopen until February 10, 2020. The current picture regarding the reopening of offices in various Chinese cities is as follows:

Guangzhou: February 10

Shenzhen: February 10

Hongkong: open

Xiamen: February 10

Ningbo: February 10

Shanghai: February 10

Shanghai Pudong: February 10

Suzhou: February 10

Chengdu: february 3  
Wuhan (\*)closed until further notice  
Qingdao: february 10  
Tianjin: february 3  
Peking: february 3  
Dalian: february 3

(\*)in relation to Wuhan: the population of the city is not allowed to leave their homes  
According to reports, all passenger and cargo flights out of the city have been cancelled, with only flights carrying medical supplies allowed, while operations at the terminal of Wuhan's Yangtze River port have been suspended.

Regarding Shanghai, we have received information that the local port and airport authorities will provide free storage from january 31, 2020 until february 9, 2020. However, we are not sure whether this will automatically apply to LCL shipments handled through NVOCCs. For the time being only Shanghai and no other city or port in China is subject to this regulation.

As far as the air freight business is concerned, it is known that international airlines such as Swiss, Lufthansa or British Airways have stopped passenger flights to and from China. Other airlines are likely to make a similar decision (or at least reduce flight frequencies due to the expected low demand). As a result, the cargo capacity on these flights will no longer be available for air cargo.

We also learned that airlines are currently establishing contingency plans to continue accepting bookings for export shipments (with the exception of Wuhan).

Russia and Hong Kong have partially blocked the border crossings to China

We try to continue to publish relevant changes to the status quo as quickly as possible.

With kind regards

**SPEDLOGSWISS**

**Swiss Freight Forwarding and Logistics Association**

Thomas Schwarzenbach

On behalf of the Chairmen of the departments Shipping and Air