Customs Responses for facilitating the cross-border movement of goods and conveyances

Seminar on overcoming border crossing obstacles, 5-6 March 2009, Paris
Thierry Piraux
World Customs Organization
Facts and Figures

- Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council
- Renamed WCO as working title in 1994
- Headquarters in Brussels
- 6 regional representatives
- Currently representing 174 members from all geographic regions and at different stages of development
- Members process > 95% of all international trade
Evolution of Customs

Revenue Collection of import taxes (duties & excise)

Protection of Economic Interests (domestic industry)

Protection of Society <health, safety> (drug trafficking, firearms, environment etc.)

Economic Development <trade, investment> (trade facilitation)

Security <terrorism> (shifting focus to entire supply chain)

Framework of Standards
A 21st CENTURY VISION

- Need for International Standards;
- Need to Link Security with Facilitation;
- Include Customs-to-Customs & Customs-to-Business Standards;
- Standards Must Include Clear Benefits;
- Need “Real-Time” Info Sharing;
- Use Intelligence and Risk-Based Controls;
- Utilize “Single Window” Concept;
- Work with other International Organizations.
Customs Responses to the Challenging Environment

- SAFE Framework of Standards
- Revised Kyoto Convention
- Istanbul/ATA Convention
- Time Release Study
- WCO Data Model
- Immediate Release Guideline
- ISCM Guidelines
Revised Kyoto Convention
Outline

- International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures
  - Original Convention agreed in Kyoto, Japan in 1973
  - Revised in 1999 after 5 years revision work; consultation with the private sector; entered into force in February 2006
  - Blueprint for modern Customs Administration: implementing effective controls & facilitating legitimate trade
    - Highly competitive business environment
  - Generally applicable core principles are consolidated in the General Annex
Key Principles (I)

- Transparency and predictability
  - Rules for providing information
  - Clear and transparent appeal procedures
    (Customs, independent authority, courts)

- Standardization and simplification of goods declaration and supporting documents
  - Minimum data requirements
  - Submission by electronic means
  - Customs Data Model (supporting initiative)
Key Principles (II)

- “Fast track” procedures for authorized persons with good compliance records
  - Release of goods with minimum information to identify goods (with later declaration)
- Maximum use of information technology
  - Use of international standards
  - Consultation of all relevant parties when introducing computer applications
  - Electronic commerce methods as an alternative to paper-based requirements
Key Principles (III)

- Minimum necessary control to ensure compliance
- Risk management
  - Identify high risk consignments based on risk analysis (intelligence)
  - Shift from all documentary, physical check to targeted check
  - Facilitation of legitimate trade while maintaining effective control
  - Effective and efficient deployment of Customs resources
Key Principles (IV)

- Audit based controls
  - Post clearance audit
- Coordinated intervention
  - Inspection with other border agencies
  - “Single window” concept
- Partnership with the trade
  - Formal consultative relationships
  - Information dissemination
  - Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)
Key Principles (V)

Pre-arrival Processing

- Prior lodgement and registration of the Goods declaration and supporting documents
- Prior lodgement of cargo declaration
- Pre-arrival information drives risk management and allows for speedy release
Benefits to the Trade Community

- Faster, predictable and efficient Customs clearance
- Transparent procedures and transparent appeals procedure
- Greater facilitation for compliant traders
- Lower business costs
- Enhanced competitiveness
- Use of information technology
Thank you for attention

For more information

www.wcoomd.org

« Copyright © 2008 World Customs Organization. All rights reserved. Requests and inquiries concerning translation, reproduction and adaptation rights should be addressed to copyright@wcoomd.org ». 