

TRADE FACILITATION INSTRUMENTS OF WCO

Trade Facilitation instruments of WCO

- **The Revised Kyoto Convention** - The International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures (Kyoto Convention) entered into force in 1974 and was revised and updated to ensure that it meets the current demands of governments and international trade.
- **The ATA System (ATA and Istanbul Conventions)** - The ATA is a system allowing the free movement of goods across frontiers and their temporary admission into a Customs territory with relief from duties and taxes. The goods are covered by a single document known as the ATA carnet that is secured by an international guarantee system. The term "ATA" is a combination of the initial letters of the French words "Admission temporaire" and the English words "Temporary Admission".

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- **Containers 1972** - The Convention provides for the temporary importation of containers, free of import duties and taxes, subject to re-exportation within 3 months and without the production of customs documents or security. The Convention also provides for the approval of containers under customs seal (these approval provisions are identical to those in the Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets – the TIR Convention, 1975).

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Recommendations

One of the most practical instruments for securing the highest degree of harmonization is Recommendations that have been adopted by the WCO Council. While Recommendations are not binding instruments they can be formally adopted with the condition for application that implicitly commits administrations, insofar as possible, to implementing its provisions.

- With regard to Customs procedures and practices the Recommendations on matters of Customs Technique are mainly intended
 - to promote co-operation between Customs administrations;
 - to standardize Members' practices regarding duty relieves, repayment or remission;
 - to facilitate the international transport of goods and travel and tourism;
 - to promote the harmonized use of information technology;
 - to facilitate and expedite the implementation of certain international Conventions;
 - to simplify and harmonize Customs documents;
 - to ensure that adequate legal remedies are available to the taxpayer.

Customs Technique Recommendations should not be put on an equal footing with treaties within the meaning of the Vienna Convention on the law of treaties.

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Recommendations Concerning Co-operation Between Administrations

- [Treatment at an International Level of Customs Technical Questions](#) (30 November 1956)
- [The Communication of Information Concerning the Customs Status of Goods](#) (22 May 1963)
- [Facilitate the Temporary Exportation of Goods Sent from one Country for Manufacture, Processing or Repair in Another](#) (3 December 1963)
- [Note for the use of the Information Document](#)
- [Technical Co-Operation in Customs Matters](#) (18 June 1981)

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Recommendations Concerning Duty Reliefs, Repayment and Remission

- [The Repayment or Remission of Duties on Goods Refused by the Importer as not Conforming to Contract](#) (28 November 1957)
- [Tax-Free Shops](#) (16 June 1960)
- [Repayment or Remission of Import Duties and Taxes on Goods Destroyed or Lost](#) (5 Dec 1962)
- [Free Admission of Removable Articles Imported on Transfer of Residence](#) (5 December 1962)
- [The Refund of Import Duties and Taxes on Shortages](#) (5 December 1962)
- [Reimported Goods](#) (6 June 1967)
- [The Free Admission of Gift Consignments](#) (11 June 1968)
- [To Expedite the Forwarding of Relief Consignments in the Event of Disasters](#) (8 June 1970)
- [The Customs Treatment of Products Imported for Testing](#) (5 June 1972)

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Recommendations Concerning Transport, Travel and Tourism

- [The Use of Temporary Importation Papers in Respect of Radio and Television Vans](#) (1 Dec 1955)
- [The Temporary Admission of Radio and Television Vans](#) (9 June 1977)
- [The Temporary Admission of Radio-Television Production and Broadcasting Equipment](#) (13 June 1985)
- [The Customs Treatment of Provisions Carried in Restaurants Cars, Pullmans Cars, Sleeping Cars and Similar Cars of International Express Trains](#) (16 June 1960)
- [The Customs Treatment of Registered Baggage Carried By Train](#) (5 June 1962 amended on 21 June 1988)
 - [Annex](#): Customs Declaration for Registered Baggage
 - Customs Declaration for Registered Baggage : [Notice to Passengers](#)
- [Customs Sealing Systems in Connection with the International Transport of Goods](#) (11 June 1968)
 - [Appendix](#)- Technical Specifications
- [The Application of a Flat Rate Assessment System to Goods Sent in Small Consignments to Private Individuals or Carried in Travellers' Baggage \(Flat Rate Assessment\)](#) (11 June 1968)

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Recommendations Concerning Transport, Travel and Tourism

- Guidelines on Dual Channel Systems in Airports - [Preamble](#)
- [A Simplified Customs Control Based on the Dual - Channel System of Passengers Arriving by Air](#)(8 June 1971)
- [A Simplified Customs Control Based on the Dual - Channel System of Passengers Arriving by Sea](#)(5 June 1972)
- [Lighters Carried by Lash or Similar - Type Vessels](#) (5 June 1972)
- [Measures to Facilitate the Application of the ITI Convention](#) (18 May 1973)
- [The Temporary Admission of Special Equipment Carried in Vehicles used for or in Connection with the Transport of Radio - Active Materials](#) (9 June 1977)
- [The Establishment of Links Between Customs Transit System](#) (16 June 1982)
- [The Acceptance of ATA Carnets in Connection with Temporary Admission](#) (25 June 1992)
- [The Acceptance of CPD Carnets in Connection with Temporary Admission](#) (25 June 1992)
- [The recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council concerning the use of advance passenger information \(API\) and Passenger Name Record \(PNR\) for efficient and effective customs control](#) (June 2012)
- [The WCO Council adopted CCC Recommendation on CSDs \(Container Security Devices\)](#) in June 2012

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Other Recommendations

- [Samples Regarded as being of Negligible Value within the Meaning of the International Convention to Facilitate the Importation of Commercial Samples and Advertising Material](#) (30 November 1956)
- [The Adoption of a Lay-Out Key for the Goods Declaration \(Outwards\)](#) (1 June 1965)
 - [Annexes](#)
- [The Right of Appeal in Customs Matters](#) (6 June 1967)
- [The Adoption of a Standard form of Certificate of Origin](#) (16 January 1973)
- [Customs Requirements Regarding Commercial Invoices](#) (16 May 1979)
- [The Single Goods Declaration](#) (26 June 1990)
- [The Use of the Glossary of International Customs Terms](#) (6 July 1993)
- [The Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and Components and Ammunition, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime](#) (29 June 2002)
- [Unique Consignment Reference \(UCR\)](#) (26 June 2004)
- [The recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council on the dematerialization of supporting documents](#) (June 2012)

Trade Facilitation instruments of WCO

Tools

Tools are non binding informal publications developed by the WCO to assist their Members and traders in the field of Customs.

- **WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium**
 - The changes in the strategic landscape of Customs' operating environment together with the long-term growth in trade and travel volumes have affected the way Customs administrations are managed and approach their tasks. These developments, together with the increasing uncertainty, have led many administrations to seek a more structured and systematic way to manage risks.
 - Risk management has been one of the key vehicles for Customs administrations to better meet the demands of the 21st century operating environment, which is seeing Customs administrations endeavoring to address risk wherever they are found and increasingly as early in the supply chain as possible.

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Tools

WCO SAFE Package

WCO tools to secure and facilitate global trade

- In June 2005 the WCO Council adopted the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework) that would act as a deterrent to international terrorism, secure revenue collections and promote trade facilitation worldwide.
- Since this historic occasion much has been done to encourage implementation of the SAFE Framework by WCO Members, including in 2007 the addition of a major section on the conditions and requirements for Customs and Authorized Economic Operators.

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Tools

Application of Information and Communication Technology – ICT Guidelines

- Information and communication technologies (IC technologies) enable Customs to increase the quality of their control activities while, at the same time, enhancing their level of trade facilitation.
- The WCO has developed Guidelines to help Administrations implement the Standards and Recommended Practices contained in the Revised Kyoto Convention. The intent of the ICT Guidelines of the Revised Kyoto Convention is to focus the attention of Customs administrations on the impact of IC technologies on the business of Customs, and to outline the potential advantages to Customs that will result from the use of IC technologies to enhance their program and service delivery.

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Tools

WCO Data Model

- The WCO Data Model is a set of carefully combined data requirements that are mutually supportive and which will be updated on a regular basis to meet the procedural and legal needs of cross-border regulatory agencies such as Customs, controlling export, import and transit transactions. It is consistent with other international standards such as the United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDDED).
- WCO Data Model not only includes data sets for different customs procedures but also information needed by other Cross-border Regulatory Agencies for the cross-border release and clearance at the border. The WCO Data Model supports the implementation of a Single Window as it allows the reporting of information to all government agency through the unique way it organizes regulatory information. This instrument is already 10 years old and is seeing increased use by WCO members.

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Tools

Unique Consignment Reference (UCR)

- The Unique Consignment Reference UCR is a reference number for Customs use and may be required to be reported to Customs at any point during a Customs procedure.
- The UCR should be:
 - applied to all international goods movements for which Customs control is required;
 - used only as an access key for audit, consignment tracking and information, reconciliation purposes;
 - unique at both national and international level; applied at consignment level;
 - issued as early as possible in the international transaction.

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Tools

Immediate Release Guidelines

- The WCO developed a set of release/clearance procedures in early 1990 to assist both Customs and trade with expediting the clearance of large number of small or negligible value goods across borders that were primarily being carried by courier and express mail services.
- These Guidelines operated on the principle of information being provided by the operator to Customs in advance of the arrival of the goods.

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Tools

API Guidelines and PNR reporting standards

- Physical inspection of a traveller and a travel document is nowadays only a small part of border controls on passengers arriving by air. The rest of the border control process relies on secure electronic data, some being provided at the time the passenger buys a ticket and some at the time the passenger boards an aircraft.
- Controls in any case have to be applied before the arrival of the passenger in the country of destination, to enable relevant border agencies to perform risk-based targeted controls on passengers and the goods they are carrying.
- The flow of passenger-related information from carriers (airlines) to border control authorities can be divided into two main streams: Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR).

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Tools

Time Release Study

- One of the methods used for the review of clearance procedures is to measure the average time taken between the arrival of the goods and their release. This facilitates Customs to identify both the problem areas and potential corrective actions to increase their efficiency.
- The use of automation and other sophisticated selectivity methods can allow Customs to improve compliance and at the same time improve facilitation for the majority of low risk goods.

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Tools

Customs International Benchmarking Manual

- The Customs International Benchmarking Manual was developed to provide guidance to administrations for improving their efficiency and effectiveness by comparing procedures or processes with the same or similar procedures or processes carried out by others.
- This process would then assist administrations in identifying and implementing best practice.

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Tools

Glossary of International Customs Terms

- The purpose of the Council's Glossary is to set down in a single document definitions of certain Customs terms in order to establish a common Customs terminology, intended not only to facilitate the work of the Council, but also to assist Members and non-Members, international organizations and trade circles to develop a uniform approach to the Customs and Customs-related questions with which they are concerned.

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Tools

Joint WCO/ICAO Brochure

- The Joint Brochure provides basic information to all those involved in the air supply chain who are interested in understanding the various security and facilitation measures implemented by ICAO and WCO Members.
- It also identifies the roles and responsibilities of various entities and highlights how they can work together effectively to secure air cargo and mail.

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Tools

WCO-UPU Postal Customs Guide (June 2014)

- The WCO–UPU Postal Customs Guide is a joint WCO–UPU tool, for Posts and for Customs administration staff dealing with postal customs clearance. For Posts, it is intended as a means of acquainting staff with the various aspects of the postal supply chain's customs component and with the different WCO standards, instruments and tools. For Customs administrations, the guide will help staff responsible for postal customs clearance to become more familiar with the postal processes involved in the international exchange of mail.
- This document also seeks to form a common basis for dialogue and discussion at national level between the designated operators of Universal Postal Union (UPU) member countries and Customs administrations of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

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WCO-UPU Guidelines for Developing a Memorandum of Understanding Between Customs and Post at National Level (June 2014)

- The main objective of the joint Guidelines is to provide guidance and ideas to designated postal operators and Customs authorities for formalizing and enhancing the contacts at the national level. These guidelines do not seek to impose a specific model on the entities concerned. The division of the document into three sections is meant to add clarity and to provide entities with greater freedom in drafting the MOU, in line with their national requirements and needs. The drafting of an MOU will help postal operators and Customs administrations to examine and elucidate their practical obligations and responsibilities as regards the customs clearance of postal items. An MOU would therefore enable national postal operators and Customs to work together harmoniously, ensuring efficient customs clearance and the timely delivery of postal items.

