



Frontier Crossing Issues^{*}

^{*} Address of the Representative of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The views expressed in this paper are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), or its Boards of Directors or the governments they represent. ADB makes no representation concerning and does not guarantee the source, originality, accuracy, completeness or reliability of any statement; information, data, finding, interpretation, advice, opinion, or view presented.

Address of the Representative of the State Customs Committee of the Republic
of Uzbekistan at the Customs Cooperation Committee Workshop
(Issyk-Kul, August 4-8, 2003)

«Frontier Crossing Issues»

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

Against the fast changes in the world trade customs authorities will be allotted a set of complicated tasks, which are not possible to solve by introduction of the most modern techniques based on close regional and multilateral cooperation.

Uzbekistan is actively negotiating on joining the World Trade Organization (WTO/GATT). This circumstance assumes implementation of a set of measures to harmonize its national legislation with the terms of the WTO/GATT.

The Republic also entered an Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation with the European Community, which obliges Uzbekistan to harmonize the national legislation with the European legislation.

The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan is drafting a new version of the Customs Code, which will mainly be based on the International Convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto Convention, 1999), WTO/GATT Agreement and other international treaties, conventions on customs and international trade.

The volume of the draft Customs Code is larger than the volume of the current Code. Increase in the volume of the Code can be explained by the following: the new draft more clearly identifies legal relations, more attention is paid to regulation of relations connected with transfer of goods and transport means through the customs frontiers. It also explores peculiarities of placing goods and transport means in definite customs regimes and actions implemented, including application of customs payments.

The draft law also includes such important sections and chapters as “Special Customs Procedures”, “Risk Management”, “International Mailing”, “Internal Customs Transit”, “Currency Control”, “Protection of the Intellectual Property Rights by Customs Authorities”, “Customs Statistics”, “Information Systems and Information Technologies”, etc.

Customs legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, customs procedures and operating methods are significantly harmonized with the agreements signed with the CIS countries, countries-members of the Main Multilateral Agreement on International transport in development of the Europe – Caucasus – Asia from September 9, 1998.

Under the intergovernmental agreements and the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan truck traffic on the vehicles of CIS countries (except for transfers from/to the third countries) are made with no special permits and transit fees.

Under the Article 3 of the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Affairs from April 15, 1994, which was signed by all CIS countries, customs authorities recognize tariff protection and customs documents of negotiating parties.

In accordance with the regulations of the International Convention on coordination of conditions of the goods' control at the frontiers from October 21, 1982, which Uzbekistan joined in 2000, the frontier, customs, veterinary and phytosanitary control are implemented at the border.

By the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 11 from January 11, 1995 implementation of the transport control (check of special permits, weight control, control of the overall size of vehicles, their accounting and registration) are under the obligation of the customs authorities, which helps to reduce time of the goods' and transport means' control at the border and simplifies cross frontier procedures.

Border customs posts, through which entry/exit of foreign truck traffic is implemented, are mainly equipped with necessary facilities. At the same time, 9 customs checkpoints have to be equipped in the nearest future with weight equipment, X-Ray machines for check of large cargoes, modern means of communication.

Simplified control regime is applied to goods transferred in accordance with the International Transit System (TIR Convention, 1978) and checking can be done only in case of violation of tariff protection, other provisions of the Convention, as well as if there is information on violation of customs legislation.

Information exchange is an actual issue as on today.

To implement signed bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements customs services exchange adopted normative and legislative documents; electronic database of Cargo Customs Declaration; information on drug traffic control, on citizens arrested for drug trafficking, methods of reticence and other issues related to the customs of our states.

Further establishment of cooperation between our services will help to solve common issues related to cross-border fraud, violation of transit rules while transferring goods and transport means, or false transit.

Expanding of information exchange will also help solving the issue of true declaration of the customs cost of the goods being transferred.

Thank you for attention!