

World Customs Organization

WHAT CAN nCEN DO?

It offers a database of nominal Customs seizures and offences at the national level, including pictures of exceptional concealment methods.

It contains a database where information and pictures on suspected persons, means of transport, means of concealment, and companies can be stored.

An Information Communication Interface (Icomm) is incorporated for data exchange between administrations who have implemented nCEN, and/or between the nCEN and the global CEN database.

It includes a communication system, forum, library, and links to facilitate cooperation and communication between Customs administrations.

The nCEN can be adapted to a limited extent on the national level (format of phone numbers and addresses, department structure etc.), however it is not possible to customize the data fields available in the software as these have been deliberately standardized for ease of data transfers to other nCEN systems, and/or the global CEN database.

[For more information, please contact the CEN Program at cis@wcoomd.org](mailto:cis@wcoomd.org)

THE NATIONAL CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT NETWORK

- ✓ As the first step in the implementation process the nCEN Road Map (including the nCEN questionnaire) has been sent to all WCO Members in the third quarter of 2012 in order to provide Customs Administrations which are interested in implementing nCEN with a guide for national implementation.
- ✓ The Enforcement Committee reiterated during this year's session the benefits of the nCEN to all Members, and encouraged them to respond to the nCEN questionnaire.
- ✓ Twenty-one countries have expressed their interest in the implementation of the nCEN, and their questionnaire responses have been evaluated by the WCO. Pre-deployment missions have been carried out where applicable in order to assess in detail the readiness status of the local infrastructure, and/or to offer advice to the national administration on the set-up, or required changes to the existing infrastructure.
- ✓ Activities related to nCEN implementation have been financially supported by Germany, Japan, US, and Finland.
- ✓ The nCEN software is free for all WCO Members. The costs of the hardware needed to run the nCEN application (server, back-up disks, laptop), the costs associated with the training, and possible costs for modifications to the local IT infrastructure (if applicable) are however the responsibility of the implementing administration.

IMPLEMENTATION ON A GLOBAL SCALE

The global response rate has been low, possibly due to the complicated nature of the subject matter in the questionnaire, or the fact that Members are not aware that even if they are not interested in nCEN, they should nevertheless send a reply to the WCO confirming their disinterest.

Six countries out of eight, namely Cameroon, Macedonia, the Maldives, Mali, Senegal, and Sudan are ready to move to the second phase of nCEN implementation. For most countries within this group however, lack of funding for hardware procurement remains a possible blocking point in the implementation process.

The WCO will work closely with those countries that have not successfully passed the assessment in order to identify possible measures which will need to be taken before a country is able to proceed to the next phase.

The WCO prepared detailed hardware procurement guidelines, since procurement issues have been identified as a possible risk.

Depending on the needs of each administration, tailored training sessions will have to be organized per country or on a regional level. For administrations who plan to have a large number of nCEN users, special arrangements will have to be made to organize different modules for trainers, administrators, and plain users.

IMPLEMENTATION IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

To date the WCO received twelve questionnaires from the countries in the ESA region, nine of which have been assessed positively. Following the first pre-deployment missions, six countries in the region, namely Kenya, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are currently moving on to the next phase of the nCEN implementation process. Unfortunately progress with the various milestones of the implementation plan is often sluggish due to time consuming internal administrative procedures on the local level.

Apart from the pioneer nCEN pilot project in Mauritius, Namibia became the first country in the region to implement the complete nCEN software package in November, including its Icomm feature. Namibia is followed closely by Swaziland, where the nCEN package has been successfully launched in early December.

The ROCB will closely cooperate with all of the countries which have not successfully passed the WCO assessment in order to identify the areas of improvement and to advise on possible measures which need to be taken. Missions to the countries concerned are under consideration as a more effective cooperation method.

A campaign to raise interest in the remaining countries of the ESA region has been underway. The aim of the campaign is to obtain a concrete answer from each remaining administration as to their interest (or lack thereof) in nCEN implementation.

