



Brussels, 17 October 2018.

## **GLOSSARY OF INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS TERMS**

**(Item XVII. on the Agenda)**

### **Background**

1. The Glossary of International Customs Terms is one of the oldest WCO tools that was developed in 1958 and has been regularly updated since then. The aim of the Glossary is to capture definitions of certain Customs terms in a single document 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 Customs issues and ensure use of the same terminology. The regular update of the Glossary is within the purview of the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC).
2. In April 2017, the PTC approved, for inclusion in the Glossary, the definitions of *Coordinated Border Management (CBM)*, *One Stop Border Post*, *Transaction Value*, *Unique Consignment Reference (UCR)* and *WCO Data Model*.
3. Furthermore, following the decision of the April 2017 PTC, Viet Nam, France and USA volunteered to support the Secretariat in preparing the update of the Glossary.
4. While the work on the majority of the terms is still progressing, in October 2017, the definitions of 7 terms – *Advance ruling*, *Checking the Goods declaration*, *Customs formalities prior to the lodgement of the Goods declaration*, *Omission*, *Outward processing*, *Transfer pricing*, *WTO Valuation Agreement* - were approved for inclusion in the Glossary. Additionally, the definition of '*SAFE Frameworks of Standards*' was updated.

### **Approved terms at the April 2018 PTC**

5. The WCO Secretariat presented the four terms proposed therein for inclusion in the Glossary of International Customs Terms: '*Customs territory*', '*Customs valuation*', '*De minimis*' and two potential options for '*Globally Networked Customs (GNC)*'.

6. The April 2018 PTC approved the term 'Globally Networked Customs (GNC)' with a view to incorporating it into the Glossary, subject to amendment to the first draft definition of 'GNC' as proposed during the meeting (deleting 'of commercial nature') and deferred the proposed definitions of the other three terms – '*Customs territory*', '*Customs valuation*', '*De minimis*', as they needed further examination from different perspectives.
7. The updated version of the Glossary on June 2018 can be accessed at <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/tools/glossary-of-international-customs-terms.aspx>.

### **Intersessional work on the update of the Glossary**

8. The 3 terms and corresponding suggested draft definitions for their potential inclusion in the Glossary are set out in Annex to this document. They are: *Enquiry point/office*, *Perishable goods*, *Time Release Study (TRS)*.
9. The remaining terms proposed for inclusion in the Glossary are undergoing a comprehensive review and draft definitions of these terms will be put forward for the consideration by the PTC in 2019.
10. Additionally, the WCO Secretariat needs to renew the volunteered working group from members with a view to responding to the trend of more concerns on the glossary of international customs terms.

### **Action required**

11. The PTC is invited to examine and, if appropriate, approve the 3 terms and respective definitions (Annex to the document) with a view to incorporating them in the Glossary of International Customs terms.
12. Also, the PTC is invited to apply to the renewed volunteered working group to support the Secretariat in preparing the update of the Glossary on the following PTC.

\*  
\* \* \*

### 3 terms for inclusion in the Glossary of International Customs Terms

Proposed term	Draft definition (new)	Source
<p><b>1 Enquiry Point/Office</b></p>	<p>A Customs office or information portal providing all relevant information of general and/or specific application pertaining to Customs to any interested person for predictability and accessibility.</p> <p>Notes;</p> <p>1. The Guidelines to Chapter 9 of the General Annex of the Revised Kyoto Convention provide sufficient guidance on enquiry points/offices. The Guidelines to Chapter 7 of the General Annex of the Revised Kyoto Convention also include guidance on how to set up a Help Desk (which is equivalent to an enquiry point/office) and its components.</p> <p>2. Information portal may be composed of various factors, for example, 'Custom Law information portal', 'Customs Practice portal', 'FTA counselling corner', 'FAQ', 'Q&amp;A for foreigners', 'Friendly Facebook or YouTube', 'interactive voice response (IVRs) systems', 'virtual voice assistants' etc.</p>	<p>The Chapter 9 in the RKC</p> <p>Transparency and Predictability Guidelines(Mar, 2017)</p>
<p><b>2 Perishable goods</b></p>	<p>Goods that rapidly decay due to their natural characteristics, in particular in the absence of appropriate storage conditions.</p>	<p>The Analysis of Section I of the TFA</p>
<p><b>3 Time Release Study(TRS)</b></p>	<p>A strategic, internationally accepted tool to measure the actual time required for the release and/or clearance of goods, from the time of arrival until the physical release of cargo, with a view to finding bottlenecks in the trade flow process and taking the corresponding necessary measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures.</p>	<p>The TRS Guide Version 3 (2018)</p>