Customs-Railways Cooperation

Permanent Technical Committee
October 2019
Railway Transit

Data Harmonization of Cargo and Passenger among railway countries
PTC and DMPT

- Data harmonization and electronic submission of import and transit declarations
- Advance Electronic Information (AEI)
- Cargo inspection using modern technologies
- Passenger controls
On-line Survey and Field Study

➢ On-line Survey
  - WCO Members’ data elements on railway transit procedures
  - National experiences of Customs transit declarations

➢ Field Study
  - Bulgaria and Kazakhstan
Online surveys on national experiences in railway transit

- Do Members require a transit declaration for railway transportation?
- Do Members accept the transit declaration in electronic format?
- Do Members accept commercial documents or transport documents as transit declarations for railway transportation?
- Do Members require AEI for railway transportation?
Online surveys on national experiences in railway transit

24 Responses from 6 regions

Europe: 6
Asia Pacific: 7
Americas and Caribbean: 6
North Africa, Near and Middle East: 2
Eastern and Southern African: 1
Member’s Data Elements in railway transit

- 6 Members and EU submitted their data elements for railway transit
- WCO secretariat analyzed the data elements and reported it to the DMPT
- DMPT will conduct exercise on standardization of data set for railway transit declaration until the end of DMPT in May 2020.
Field studies in Bulgaria and Kazakhstan

➢ To view actual facilities for railway transit at the border

➢ To understand current railway transit procedures, the physical movement and inspection of cargo at the border, and the cooperation practices applied by Customs and private railway companies
Field study in Bulgaria

Serbia

Border

Bulgaria

Railway
Bulgaria_Transit Procedures

➢ (ENS) should be submitted electronically two hours in advance of arrival at Bulgarian Customs in order to conduct risk assessment

➢ (Railway transit declaration) should generally be submitted to Bulgarian Customs

➢ (CIM consignment note) Authorized operators can show a paper-based CIM consignment note as a railway transit declaration and should be carried by railway locomotives, and submitted if Customs requests further information
Bulgaria_Cargo Controls and inspections

- (Joint inspection) Bulgarian Customs has an office at Railway Station in Serbia and both Customs can conduct joint inspections, if necessary

- (Bilateral agreement) 13 km long area between Bulgaria and Serbia as an “area of exchange of traffic/common border for the railway” to permit both Customs to conduct the necessary inspections

- (Turkish Customs) shares X-ray images electronically with Bulgarian Customs and operate a joint information centre
Bulgaria_Passenger control

- Passenger luggage controls are conducted on the train between Bulgarian and Serbian stations.
- All Customs checks, including passport checks, are conducted manually.
- Railway companies mentioned the possibility of using the booking data which already exists in their systems.
Field study in Kazakhstan

Map showing the location of Altynkol within Kazakhstan.
Field study in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan

China

Railway

Border

Altynkol
Kazakhstan _Transit Procedures

- **(Cargo information)** Railway Company obtains information and electronically transmits it to Customs two hours before a cargo train arrives in Kazakhstan.

- **(Documents)** Railway company submits all paper based documents (SMGS notes, invoices, packing lists, etc.).

- **(SMGS consignment note)** Railway Company uses SMGS consignment notes, but CIM or CIM/SMGS consignment notes are not used.
Kazakhstan_Cargo Controls and Inspections

- (Information) Customs selects risky cargoes automatically based on information which was electronically sent by Kazakhstan Railway Company.
- (X-ray) Customs screens cargoes by 100% X-ray screening for selecting risky cargoes.
- (Inspections) Customs inspects risky cargoes in a separate bonded area.
Kazakhstan_Passenger control

- Immigration officers and Customs officers board the train together.
- Customs officers conduct passenger luggage controls right after passport controls by immigration officers.
- All Customs checks, including passport checks, are conducted manually.
The way forward

➢ Potential benefits of facilitating the railway transportation mode by standardizing Customs transit procedures could prove significant;

➢ However, there are also some challenges in terms of accommodating the different procedures prevailing in the various regions.
The way forward

- Accordingly, there is a need to continue analyzing national experiences in the various regions through field studies and workshops.

- It is also important for the results of these activities to be summarized as a draft handbook/guidance describing national experiences.