

WHAT CAN nCEN DO?

It offers a database of nominal Customs seizures and offences at the national level, including a possibility to record commodity, detection method, conveyance, and route details, with pictures of exceptional concealment methods.

It gives the possibility to store information and pictures of suspected persons and business entities in two additional databases.

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

It allows for a structured investigation process based on suspect records or seizure cases received from other Administrations through Icomm.

It includes a communication system, forum, library, and links to facilitate communication on a national, regional, and international level.

It facilitates effective risk management and the identification of effective action items in key risk areas.

By improving the analytical capabilities of an Administration it permits targeted controls of shipments thus promoting legitimate trade.

For more information, please contact nCEN@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 order to provide Customs Administrations which are interested in implementing nCEN information for consideration before national implementation. More recently in March 2014, follow-up guidelines have been sent with more precise information on the installation and training process.
- ✓ During the 2013 session, the Enforcement Committee reiterated the benefits of the nCEN to all WCO Members, and encouraged them to respond to the nCEN questionnaire.
- ✓ Twenty-seven 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 the nCEN, they should nevertheless send a reply to the WCO confirming their disinterest.

The WCO developed additional nCEN Guidelines for Customs Administrations in order to highlight the important points from the nCEN Roadmap as well as to provide some additional informative notes to interested Members.

Seven countries out of eleven, namely Cameroon, FYR of Macedonia, the Maldives, Mali, Senegal, Sudan, and Vanuatu 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.

Depending on the needs of each administration, tailored training sessions will 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 sixteen questionnaires from the countries in the ESA region, thirteen of which have been assessed positively. Following the conclusion of the pre-deployment missions, nine countries in the region, namely Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, 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 2013, followed closely by Swaziland. Recently in June a successful launch of the application and a training seminar was completed in the Seychelles.

The ROCB cooperates closely 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. Some missions to the countries concerned are considered as this has proven to be a more effective cooperation method.

The campaign to raise interest in the remaining countries of the ESA region has been successful to date, with 75% of the countries having send the WCO a completed questionnaire.