



237th/238th Sessions
25-27 October 2022

Brussels, 22 August 2022.

Customs-Port Cooperation
Guidelines on Cooperation between Customs and Port Authorities
(Item XI on the Agenda)

SUMMARY

Purpose of document

In October 2021, the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) discussed and supported a proposal by the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) to develop a set of Guidelines on Cooperation between Customs and Port Authorities to Strengthen Trade Facilitation and Supply Chain Security. Further to the PTC support, interested members of IAPH and of the WCO convened in a Mini Group to discuss the topic and develop the planned Guidelines.

Action required of the Permanent Technical Committee

The Permanent Technical Committee is invited to:

- take note of and provide guidance on the progress of the development of Guidelines on Cooperation between Customs and Port Authorities; and
- contribute and share national experiences on Customs-Port cooperation.

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I. Background

1. At its meeting in October 2021, the PTC discussed and approved a proposal by the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) to develop a set of Guidelines on Cooperation between Customs and Port Authorities to Strengthen Trade Facilitation and Supply Chain Security and accelerate the digitalization agenda. The objective was to address a number of challenges in establishing cooperation and help Members to establish a better working relationship with Port Authorities.

2. The core element of cooperation between Customs and Port Authorities is a focus on accelerating the digitalization agenda, in line with the WCO approach to Coordinated Border Management (CBM) and Digital Customs. Such cooperation could be used to address shared Customs strategic objectives in trade and transport facilitation, compliance and supply chain security. Several specific areas of cooperation that could be considered include:
 - establishment of a governance structure: e.g. institutional engagement, legal framework, memorandum of understanding, change management;
 - supply chain security: e.g. alignment of trusted traders programmes (Authorized Economic Operators);
 - digitalization: e.g. Smart Customs/Smart Port, Customs/Maritime Single Window, Port Community System, data harmonization and standardization and implementation thereof based on the WCO Data Model, advance electronic information, critical infrastructure (cybersecurity and cyber resilience);
 - coordinated border control: Integrated Risk Management System, inspection equipment, interoperability, data collaboration and clearance system; and
 - performance measurement.
3. Concluding the discussion at the October 2021 Meeting, the PTC thanked the IAPH for proposing the development of joint Guidelines on Cooperation between Customs and Port Authorities, shared Member experiences and discussed the opportunities and challenges of developing joint guidance on this matter, took note of the next steps in advancing this joint guidance, and invited a Mini Group of interested Members to support the development of the proposed Guidelines in the intersession.

II. Intersessional Developments

4. Further to the discussion by the PTC and its support for the proposal, the WCO and IAPH conducted a joint Workshop on Best Practices in Customs & Ports Collaboration¹ on 23 November 2021. The Workshop constituted a first step towards the joint development of international guidelines on Customs-Port cooperation to accelerate digitalization agendas, and aimed to launch a reinforced partnership between Customs and Port Authorities to facilitate smoother and more efficient supply chains. Twelve high-level speakers from Customs and Maritime/Port Authorities representing six countries shared their experience in three sessions covering several aspects of interagency cooperation, namely the institutional and legal framework, practices on digital systems, and potential areas of cooperation.
5. On 20 December 2021, the WCO and the IAPH Secretariat sent out a letter to WCO and IAPH members inviting them to join a kick-off meeting of a Mini Group of interested members on 20 January 2022. The Mini Group members were invited to contribute to developing the planned Guidelines. The Mini Group members discussed the draft outline of the Guidelines and were invited to contribute to specific areas based on their national practices. The draft outline is attached as Annex I to this document.
6. The Mini Group has met regularly, on a monthly basis. Some active participants in, and contributors to, the Mini Group include Bulgaria, China, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Morocco, Turkiye, and the United States. The Mini Group organizes its work on the basis of a work plan which includes a number of activities, such as

¹ <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2021/november/deputy-secretary-general-participates-in-opening-of-iaph-wco.aspx>

developing the outline, writing, peer review, text consolidation and public review. The Mini Group aims to finalize its work and submit the draft Guidelines to the PTC in Spring 2023, and subsequently to submit them to the IAPH Data Collaboration Committee (DCC). The work plan is attached as a reference in Annex II to this document.

7. While some Mini Group members have begun submitting their contributions to the draft Guidelines, the Guidelines could benefit from more Members sharing their good practices regarding different aspects of Customs-Port cooperation, preferably as consolidated input from the national Customs administration and Port Authorities.
8. The PTC is invited to:
 - take note of and provide guidance on the progress of the development of Guidelines on Cooperation between Customs and Port Authorities; and
 - contribute and share national experiences on Customs-Port cooperation.

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Draft outline of the Guidelines on Customs-Port Cooperation

No	Topic	Writer									Peer			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	9	11	12	1	2	3	
1.	Introduction													
	a. Purpose	WCO												
	b. WCO policy	WCO												
	c. IAPH policy		IAPH											
	d. Glossary	WCO	IAPH											
2.	Strengthening Cooperation between Customs & Ports								APN *) 03/07					
	a. The need for cooperation			GPA 29/06	CN 26/06	BG 22/05								
	–mandate, role, strategic objective					BG 22/05								
	–potential cooperation area					BG 22/05								
	–challenges					BG 22/05								
	b. The path to strengthening cooperation		IAPH	DE	CN 26/06									
	–legal framework		IAPH			BG 22/05								
	–institutional and governance framework		IAPH			BG 22/05								
	–planning for an implementation project					BG 22/05								
3.	Accelerating the Digitalization Agenda								APN 03/07					
	a. Benefits of digital collaboration			GPA 19/04	CN 26/06	BG 22/05								
	b. Understanding Customs/port business processes and services			GPA 19/04	CN 26/06	BG 22/05				DE				
	c. Convergence between Customs/Port/Maritime single window		IAPH		CN 26/06	BG 22/05								
	d. Harmonized data requirements (data model, data confidentiality)	WCO				BG 22/05								

	e. Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and cybersecurity (coordinated BCP)		IAPH										
	f. Innovative technology (blockchain, IoT, Artificial Intelligence, advanced analytics)												
4.	Enhancing Supply Chain Security and Resilience												
	a. Integrated trusted partner program												
	b. Coordinated risk management (ACI, AVI)					BG 22/05							
5.	Other Areas of Cooperation												
	a. Mutual recognition of control					BG 22/05		APN					
6.	National Practices												
	a. Japan						JP 29/06						

*) APN : National Port Authority of Morocco;
 GPA : US - Georgia Port Authority;
 CN : China;
 BG : Bulgaria;
 DE : Germany;
 JP : Japan.

Annex II to
Doc. PC0706Ea

No.	IAPH WCO Cooperation Guidelines	Due By	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14
			January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
			1	Working Group Kick off Meeting	20/01/2022	Jan 20									
2	Review/Confirm Schedule, Resourcing and Preliminary ToC														
3	Confirm Core Team, Writing & Peer Review Assignment Commitments	15/02/2022		Feb 15											
4	Initiate ToC, Writing Assignments, Risks, etc.														
5	Brainstorming session 1	23/02/2022		Feb 23											
6	Brainstorming session 2	22/03/2022			March 22										
7	Review/Finalize/Resolve ToC, Writing Assignments, Risks, etc.														
8	Check In Call - Review Progress, Identify/Resolve Risks, etc.	19/04/2022				April 19									
9	Writing Block #1 - First Draft	30/07/2022													
10	Check In Call - Review Progress, Identify/Resolve Risks, etc.	24/05/2022					May 24								
11	Check In Call - Review Progress, Identify/Resolve Risks, etc.	28/06/2022						28-Jun							
12	Check In Call - Review Progress, Identify/Resolve Risks, etc.	27/07/2022							27-Jul						
13	Peer Review / Draft 1 Edits	30/08/2022													
14	Check In Call - Review Progress, Identify/Resolve Risks, etc.	23/08/2022							Aug 23						
15	Check In Call - Review Progress, Identify/Resolve Risks, etc.	20/09/2022									Sept 20				
16	Content and editorial reviews performed ad hoc	20/09/2022													
17	Writing Block #2 - Second Draft	30/10/2022													
18	Check In Call - Review Progress, Identify/Resolve Risks, etc.	18/10/2022										Oct 18			

19	Content and editorial reviews performed ad hoc	18/10/2022
20	Peer Review / Draft 2 Edits	30/11/2022
21	One voice - Content and editorial reviews performed ad hoc	22/11/2022
22	Writing Block #3 - Final Updates	30/12/2022
23	Content and editorial reviews performed ad hoc	30/12/2022
24	Compilation of Completed Sections	30/01/2023
25	Content and editorial reviews performed ad hoc	16/01/2023
26	Proof reading by professional proof reader	23/01/2023
27	Final Draft Circulated to Working Group for Final Review	30/01/2023
28	Content and editorial reviews performed ad hoc	10/02/2023
29	Draft document submitted to the PTC & DCC	15/02/2023
30	Draft Guidelines discussed by the PTC & DCC	xx/04/2023
31	Final document	31/05/2023
32	Document Submission to IAPH Board for Endorsement	01/06/2023
33	Document Submission to WCO PC and Council for Endorsement	01/06/2023

