

TECHNICAL PROTOCOL
BETWEEN
THE AFGHAN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
AND
THE CUSTOMS SERVICE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
CONCERNING
THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF CUSTOMS DATA

Preamble

The Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (ACD) and the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (TCS), hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

This **protocol** is prepared and will go into force based on the bilateral agreement between Islamic Republic of Afghanistan & Republic of Tajikistan on mutual Customs cooperation signed on 26/03/2014 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Recognizing the need to further strengthen the bilateral Customs co-operation, including on monitoring and control of the Customs transit & bilateral trade;

Taking into consideration the technical feasibility of implementing and monitoring the automatic exchange of Customs data between the two Parties; **agreed as follows:**

Article 1

Exchange of Electronic Customs Data

1. The Customs data refer to data on vehicles and goods moving through the border crossing points (BCPs) between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan.
2. The exchange of electronic Customs data means the electronic submission by one Party (country of exit) to the other Party (country of entry) of the agreed set of data, as defined in Article 2, through the special data exchange mechanism, as outlined in Annex 2, following the commencement of Customs procedures.

Article 2

Set of Customs Data & Contents

1. The minimum set of Customs data that the Parties agree to exchange under this Protocol is defined in the Annex 1.
2. Electronic data elements shall be in conformity with international standards (WCO, UN EDIFACT, ISO etc).

Article 3

Automatic Data Exchanges

1. The parties agree to exchange the electronic Customs data in real time.

Article 4

Technical Implementation Aspects

1. The exchange of electronic Customs data will be implemented between the ACD ASYCUDAWorld (AW) system and the TCS Unified Automated Information System (UAIS)
2. The mechanism of electronic data exchange will include a secure VPN tunnel, electronic messaging triggers in the two Customs information systems and two configured gateways.
3. Duration of the pilot phase of electronic data exchange will be 90 days and will include one agreed pair of BCPs at the Afghanistan - Tajikistan border. Following the end of the pilot phase, on the basis of results achieved, the electronic data exchange mechanism will be rolled out to other BCPs on the Afghanistan - Tajikistan border.

Article 5

Inputs by the Parties

1. Each Party shall make available a test server for implementation of the VPN tunnel and minimum one working station (PC) to be used as a gateway for sending and receiving electronic messages.
2. Each Party shall nominate a focal point in charge for implementation and subsequent maintenance and monitoring of electronic data exchange mechanism.
3. In addition to Electronic Data Exchange, both Parties may notify each other via official correspondence and communication the seizer, discovery and transit of drugs, precursors and explosive materials.

Article 6

International Assistance

1. Taking into account that UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) is already providing technical assistance to ACD, the Parties agree to benefit of UNCTAD technical assistance and experience in the implementation of the electronic exchange of data between AW and UAIS, including:
 - Installation, configuration, testing and piloting;
 - Training of technical experts on maintenance and monitoring of the system;
 - Preparation of relevant technical and functional documentation.
 - Monitoring and evaluation of data exchange system performance and data integrity.

Article 7

Entry into Force, Duration and Termination

1. This Protocol shall enter into force at the signature by both Parties.
2. This Protocol is intended to be of unlimited duration but either Party may terminate it at any time, upon a prior written notification of the other Party. The termination shall become applicable three months following the date of receiving such notification.
3. Any procedures in progress at the moment of termination hereof, shall nonetheless be completed in accordance with the provisions of this Protocol.

Article 8

Review

1. This Protocol may be amended based on written mutual agreement of both Parties.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

Signed in Dushanbe, on 30 04 2015, in two original copies in three languages Tajiki, Dari and English with all texts having equal validity.

For the purpose of interpretation and dispute settlement of this protocol the English version shall be the preferred language.

**For the Afghan Customs Department,
Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan**

**For the Customs Services under the
Government of The Republic of Tajikistan**

Director General

Chairman

ANNEX 1

**MINIMUM SET OF DATA ELEMENTS
TO BE EXCHANGED**

NO.	DATA ELEMENT IN TRANSIT MESSAGE	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	NOTE
1	Declaration Type	Code specifying the name of a document.	an..3	EX, T1 or TIR
2	Movement Reference Number	Reference number identifying a specific document.	an..35	
3	Country of Destination Code	Identification of the name of the country or other geographical entity as specified in ISO 3166 and UN/EDF Rec 3	a2	ISO 3166-1 2-alpha code
4	Country of Dispatch/ Export Code	To identify the country from which the goods are originally exported without any commercial transaction taken place in intermediate countries.	a2	ISO 3166-1 2-alpha code
5	Declaration Date	Date at which a declaration was issued and when appropriate, signed or otherwise authenticated.	n17	
6	Consignor	Name [and address] of the party consigning goods as stipulated in the transport contract by the party ordering transport.	an..70	
7	Consignee	Name [and address] of party to which goods are consigned.	an..70	
8	Total Packages	Count of total number of packages of the entire declaration/ consignment.	n..8	
9	Container Transport Indicator	An indication whether or not goods are transported in a container	n1	
10	Total Invoice Amount	Total of all invoice amounts declared in a single declaration.	n..16,2 (floating delimiter with max. decimals as defined)	<u>Optional data element</u>
11	Invoice Currency	Code specifying a monetary unit or currency.	a3	EDIFACT codes - (ISO 4217 3-alpha code). <u>Optional data element</u>
12	Mode of Transport at the Border	Means and mode of transport used for crossing the border, coded.	an..4	UN/EDF Rec.28
13	Identity of Means of Transport at Departure	To identify the means of transport used at the time of presentation of the consignment to a Customs office in the context of a goods declaration.	an..35	
14	Identity of Active Means of Transport Crossing the Border	Name to identify the means of transport used in crossing the border.	an..35	

NO.	DATA ELEMENT IN TRANSIT MESSAGE	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	NOTE
15	Goods Item Number	Number indicating the position in a sequence.	n..5	
16	Description of Goods	Plain language description of nature of a goods item sufficient to identify it for Customs, statistical or transport purposes.	an..512	
17	Gross Mass (kg)	Weight of line item including packaging but excluding the transport equipment.	n..11,3 (Floating delimiter with max. decimals as defined)	
18	Principal	Name [and address] of party accepting liability for goods held or moving under a Customs authorization and - when applicable - a guarantee.	an..70	TIR Carnet Holder Details

Note: The Contracting Parties may add other data elements if necessary for technical reasons (e.g. other IRU TIR-LPD data elements, the identity of new means of transport when goods are transhipped from one means of transport to another)

The following data concern the cargo motor vehicles that cross the border declared as empty

NO.	DATA ELEMENT IN TRANSIT MESSAGE	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	NOTE
1	Declaration Type	Code specifying the name of a document.	an..3	108
2	Declaration Date	Date at which a declaration was issued and when appropriate, signed or otherwise authenticated.	n17	Vehicle exit date and time
3	Identity of Active Means of Transport Crossing the Border	Name to identify the means of transport used in crossing the border.	an..35	
4	Nationality of Active Means of Transport Crossing the Border	Nationality of active means of transport used in crossing the border, coded.	an3	
5	Country of Destination Code	Identification of the name of the country or other geographical entity, as specified in ISO 3166 and UN/ECE Rec. 3	a2	ISO 3166-1 2-alpha code
6	Country of Dispatch/Export Code	Identification of the country from which the goods are originally exported without any commercial transaction taken place in intermediate countries.	a2	ISO 3166-1 2-alpha code

ANNEX 2

