



ARMENIA



Customs reforms and trade facilitation process within the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia

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Organization and staff:

- Customs administration of Armenia – established January, 1992
- Tax service and State Customs Committee – merged to State Revenue Committee of Armenia in 2008.
- Customs code of Armenia - adopted in January, 2001.

Structure

- Head office;
- 9 Regional and specialized Customs Houses;
- 7 active active customs points (4 with Georgia, 1 with the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2 air customs points);
- Inactive customs points - Armenia-Azerbaijan, Armenian-Turkey
- Over 750 customs officers;



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Key objectives of the Customs Authorities:

- Ensure protection of economic sovereignty, security and economic interests and domestic market of RA;
- Ensure implementation of customs legislation clauses, control and customs formalities, provide favorable terms promoting goods and passengers circulation;
- Combat smuggling and violation of the RA Customs and related legislation;
- Support development of external economic relations of RA;
- Promote measures aimed at providing quality;
- Assurance of imported goods with a view to;
- Protect consumer's interests;



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Equipments:

- X-Ray scanners (2 big scanners for tracks and smaller ones on for goods/luggage);
- Radiation detectors;
- Fido verdict explosives and narcotics identifier;
- Metal analyzers;
- Canines unit;



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Transparency insurance in trade facilitation

Organizational works

- Appropriate guidelines and various manuals were developed in order to insure the same and similar implementation of the tax and customs administration procedures.



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Tax procedures

- A risk-based audit system was introduced as a complex measure implemented by the bodies responsible for audits in order to planning of such kind of audit and inspections;
- Launch of the facilitated /automated tax overpayments systems;
- Development of the cameral automated control system is now in process;
- A new e-government system supplemented by a number of modules, including the taxpayers, personal cards, automatic maintenance, returns processing, receiving information from third parties, based on risk assessment, automated bank transactions, refund overpayments and other modules was launched.



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Customs procedures

- By the RA Government's appropriate resolution the procedures regarding the registration of organizations and individual entrepreneurs in customs houses as a participant of foreign economic activities, as well as the procedures concerning the activities subject to licensing have been simplified.



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HR Management

- Detailed description of the Tax and Customs officers' positions has been defined;
- The Tax and Customs officers has been provided with training courses in the EU, OECD, WCO, IOTA IMF and the IMF international institutions;
- Two new renovated training centers have been operated in Yerevan both for Tax and Customs officers;
- Procedures of conducting and organization of the training events within the SRC have been regulated; a comprehensive training and study programme for the SRC employees has been introduced;
- A social insurance package for the state employees, as well as for tax and customs officers was introduced in 2012;



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Communication

- The tax and customs services' websites have been run with a new structure and design, electronic and information services; the updating process was regulated accordingly;
- "Information for foreign economic activity operators" of the website "Import and export map" was created;
- Trademarks and right holders officially registered in the intellectual property registration book are represented in the website;
- Detailed information on the measures undertaken by the customs authorities for the intellectual property rights protection in Armenia is published in the website;



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Cooperation

- Twinning project “Support to the State Revenue Committee for Strengthening of Customs Control Procedures and Enforcement in the RA” started on June 2013. The most important and largest part of the project is the part of approximation of legislative reforms with European standards;
- Accession of the revised Kyoto Convention is now in a final stage.
- Armenian Customs Service is actively involved in EU-Armenia Deep and Comprehensive Trade Area Agreement negotiations /in 4 working groups/.



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Customs value, price calculation

- Draft law defining documents to be submitted for the determination and calculation of declared goods based on the transaction value method was developed.
- A special section with appropriate explanations and examples has been set in the official website/ transparency and publicity of Methodology for determination of customs value/.



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IT and analysis

The automation of the customs procedures within the framework of the "SRC reforms programme 2011 - 2013" was announced as a high priority of the customs service activities.

Electronic system of the customs payments

- System insuring an integration of the commercial banks and the customs systems to carry out a customs payments mechanism through electronic means. In case of "green channel" the declarant submits the customs declarations and makes payments from his own office.
- System conducting essentially simplification of the customs clearance procedures, reduces the number of documents and time necessary for customs clearance.



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Subsystems of the customs payments cards and customs declarations electronic processing

- The electronic subsystem of the customs payments cards replaced the paper based system and facilitated the economic operators' obligations.
- An opportunity for customs officers to carry out the release of goods directly through electronic means, as well as to monitor and control more precisely and effectively the period required for the customs clearance.
- Serious benefit for users of the customs payments cards system for implementation of the whole customs clearance procedure electronically.



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Integration of the legal entities' state register systems of the State Revenue Committee and the Ministry of Justice

- An integration of the legal entities' state register systems of the SRC and the MoJ was implemented.
- Customs and tax systems were integrated subsequently thus making available the information about legal entities in the TWM automated system.
- Exemption from the obligation of submitting of additional documents.



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Set up of a procedure defining the receipt and submission the medicaments import certification based on "Single Window" principle.

- Automation procedure defining the receipt and submission the medicaments import certification based on "Single Window" principle.
- Possibility to organize the procedure of declaration, customs clearance and release quickly by avoiding simultaneously from the obligatory inspection process.
- The system insures also checking of the preconditions' submission and minimizes the possibility of mechanical mistakes.



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Compliance of the customs data with the WCO Customs Data Model

Most important precondition for the installation of a "Single Window" principle - a development of the Single format of data.

- In 2012 huge work was done in order to make compliance of the customs data with the WCO Customs Data Model.



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Cameral Inspection

- Cameral inspection option was set up in the centralized system of the online submission of the customs declarations.
- Opportunity for economic operators to avoid from unconscious mistakes and alerts them about possible discrepancies.
- Customs risk management system was improved in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Ministry of Finance. Currently the customs inspection and post audit control selection process is carried out through risk management system.



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Thank you for your kind attention

Questions?

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