

Information on TIR Customs Transit System in Uzbekistan

Distinguished participants of TIR Customs Transit System Forum,

First of all, the establishment of transnational corridors to world markets has become a strategically important objective of the Republic of Uzbekistan from the first years of independence. Geographic position of our country allows for shortest transit transportations of goods and passengers in all directions. Due to this, a significant deal of attention is being paid to international road transport – one of the dynamically developing areas of economic activity and entrepreneurship in our country.

Republic of Uzbekistan has joined TIR Convention on August 31, 1995.

Currently over 35% of foreign trade goods of our country are moved under cover of TIR Carnets. In 2002 a number of issued TIR Carnets comprised 614, in 2003 – 842, and 1,896 in 2004.

During last year 20,664 vehicles moved foreign trade goods under cover of TIR Carnets, out of which 5,083 vehicles for import, 5,635 vehicles for export, and 9,946 vehicles in transit.

The Association of International Road Carriers of Uzbekistan (AIRCUZ) is the organization that guarantees road carriers' compliance with TIR Convention. It was created in 1993 to develop international transport in our country.

From 1994 AIRCUZ developed and furnished the Government with documents on Uzbekistan's accession to international TIR Conventions, 1975 and Convention on International Transport of Goods Contract.

These conventions were ratified by Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan on **August 31, 1995**. On **March 28, 1996** TIR Convention has become effective on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Currently customs authorities of Uzbekistan apply information tools to control the delivery of goods transported under TIR Carnet system, and also for the purposes of transferring data on terminated transportations in Uzbekistan SCC with assistance from IRU has installed a Safe TIR system, which is being fully utilized by AIRCUZ for a long time. Thus the information exchange between customs and association has become more intensive and efficient through new technologies.

According to a Comprehensive Customs Development Program, Uzbekistan step-by-step refurbishes and equips border customs posts with modern technical means of control, communication facilities and computer equipment. Only during last 5 years 10 international road checkpoints were built in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

According to Customs Modernization Plan SCC of the Republic of Uzbekistan with government support has initiated the design of a Unified Automated Information System, which is being developed and introduced gradually.

Under the umbrella of these measures there are projects implemented to improve customs posts infrastructure, construct customs complexes and large posts and to equip them with necessary modern facilities. We are considering the possibility of buying mobile scanners to be used at border posts, firstly at Uzbek-Afgan border. The experience of using such equipment has demonstrated its high reliability and efficiency. However, high price is the main problem in procuring it.

We are confident that this Forum will provide an additional impulse for transit potential and increased cargo flows through Customs Cooperation Committee member countries.