

8th Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting
under the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Program

Joint Control as a Form to Improve Export and Import Procedures in Foreign Trade
in the Kyrgyz Republic

The processes of globalization of trade and economic relations in the world require conducting relevant reforms in the area of customs regulation of external trade operations based on widely recognized international rules and application of modern administration methodologies, which are intended to simplify trade procedures and at the same time to ensure efficient customs control.

Due to geographic specificities of the Central Asian region, for countries, which are landlocked or are located at a significant distance from potentially developed world economic centers and regions, the issues of simplification of border crossing procedures are priority directions in reforming the system of state regulation in external trade for free movement of goods and services.

Solution on these issues in general predetermines the possibility of active participation in international trade turnover and, therefore, the development of the economic potential of the region. Meanwhile, it should be mentioned, that the prospects of expanding the trade potential of the Central Asian region in future shall undoubtedly lead to well-deserved participation of the countries of our region in global trade.

In recent years in the Eurasian space one can see positive aspects in understanding the need in establishing favorable conditions for development of trade and expanding transit corridors, which assumes unification and harmonization of rules, conducting systemic reforms in the area of state administration of cargo flows and transport sector reforming. Development of procedure simplification mechanisms is considered both at bilateral and multilateral levels within integration communities.

One of the technologies of cargo flow control is organization of joint border control. The practical experience of the states, which introduced this control mechanism, demonstrates that joint control is one of the effective measures to simplify procedures in international trade turnover.

As for introducing this form of control in the Kyrgyz Republic, one should note that the legislation of the republic provides an adequate legal basis for simplification of border procedures.

Having adopted Law № 92 as of December 19, 1997, the Kyrgyz Republic acceded to the International Convention on coordinating the conditions of conducting cargo border control.

The Kyrgyz Republic has signed bilateral intergovernmental agreements on crossing points at the state border with the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The mentioned agreements envisage that the Parties, when necessary, shall establish conditions for joint control. The procedure of organization and implementation of joint control will be determined by specific agreements between border, customs and other concerned agencies of the Parties-states.

On July 4, 2006 the Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on joint control at the Kyrgyz-Kazakh state border was signed in Astana, Kazakhstan.

This Agreement is a legal basis for introduction of joint control at the Kyrgyz-Kazakh state border using the "one-stop" principle, which assumes:

- exchange of information on movement of physical persons and goods and transportation means across the state border;
- conducting joint control, examination, inspections by controlling bodies of the Parties at joint check points;
- recognition and use of shipping documents prepared in line with national legislation of the Parties by authorized bodies of the states of the Parties.

In 2008, when preparing for pilot joint control at border crossing points Chon-Kapka (KGZ) – Aisha-Bibi (KAZ), the customs agencies of the Parties developed a draft of the Temporary Technological Scheme for handling persons, goods and transportation means cording the above mentioned border crossing points.

On December 5, 2008 the minutes of the working meeting of managers of the customs agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan was signed in Almaty, Kazakhstan, according to which the Temporary Technological Scheme for handling persons, goods and transportation means cording the multilateral road check points Chon-Kapka – Aisha-Bibi at the Kyrgyz-Kazakh state border was approved.

According to the Temporary Technological Scheme and the order "On Pilot Testing of Joint Control at the Multilateral Road Check Point Chon-Kapka – Aisha-Bibi", the State Customs Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic jointly with the customs service of the Republic of Kazakhstan introduced joint customs control at the BCPs Chon-Kapka – Aisha-Bibi at the Kyrgyz-Kazakh state border.

It should be noted, that during implementation of this pilot joint control the following positive results have been achieved:

- simplification of procedures for physical person when crossing the state border;
- control and clearance are implemented based on the "one-stop" principle;

Emphasizing positive outcomes of the pilot activities, the customs service of the Kyrgyz Republic expresses its readiness to continue cooperation to introduce joint control at other check points at the state borders of the countries in the region.

Thank you for your attention!