

Information on joint control at Kazakhstan-Kyrgyz border

To improve border control procedure, have closer interaction between controlling authorities at the border and substantially reduce the time of control of movement of people, goods and vehicles, one-stop control was initiated by customs service of Kazakhstan in 2003.

To address this issue it is necessary to take into account two things: on one side we have the objective of ensuring appropriate efficient control, and on the other – to expedite and simplify border processing procedures.

First of all we analyzed the legislative framework of two countries with respect to joint control implementation.

There is a legal basis for a joint customs control:

- Agreement on border crossing at Almati – Bishkek route (ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan on May 6, 2002 #318-II and Kyrgyz Republic on February 16, 2002 #24);
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of Kyrgyz Republic on state border crossing points as of December 24, 2003;
- Agreement between Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Kazakhstan on cooperation in the area of state border protection as of May 11, 2004 #63;
- Agreement between Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Kazakhstan on trust measures in border area as of May 11, 2004 #60.

The practice shows that at one crossing point citizens and foreign economic activity participants submit the same package of documents for inspection by all controlling authorities, and do so two times: both on Kazakh and Kyrgyz territory.

In other words controlling functions are duplicated at both sides. This causes complaints from citizens and foreign economic activity participants, slows down the exchange and goods turnover process, and also negatively affects the image of the country in general.

We see the simplification of border control, creation of favorable conditions for foreign economic activity participants and also increased goods turnover in the reduction of public authorities implementing border control.

To introduce joint control the Customs Control Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan developed a draft “Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of Kyrgyz Republic on joint control at Kazakh-Kyrgyz state border” (hereinafter referred to as Agreement).

The work on drafting the Agreement was on since September 2003. Draft Agreement was coordinated with all concerned ministries and agencies of the country, including the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and underwent significant changes.

Provisions of the Agreement stipulate notions and main principles of joint control at Kazakh-Kyrgyz border.

Draft Agreement provides for a joint control based on interaction between controlling authorities of signatory states according to a one-stop service principle.

In 2003-2004 a number of working meetings between customs services of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan were held on the possibility of joint control at Kazakh-Kyrgyz border. The meetings were also attended by representatives of border forces and transport control authorities of two countries.

Logical conclusion of these meetings is the experiment during July 4-16, 2004 on joint customs control and processing of goods and vehicles moved through Kazakh-Kyrgyz border at “Korday” (Republic of Kazakhstan) and “Akjol” (Kyrgyz Republic) crossing point.

Experiment on joint customs control at “Korday-Akjol” point was implemented for physical persons, passenger cars and lorries. Only customs services of two countries participated in the experiment.

Experiment results demonstrated expedited and simplified customs procedures and revealed problematic issues of joint border control.

Time-study indicated that control time decreased twice.

Also during the experiment foreign economic activity participants were surveyed on the need to introduce joint control at Kazakh-Kyrgyz border. The experiment received positive feedback from foreign economic activity participants, but one proposal was received – to increase the number of windows where documents are submitted to.

Given positive experiment results Kyrgyz party expressed its readiness for a joint control at Kazakh-Kyrgyz border.

For practical implementation of the joint control a need to create appropriate infrastructure was identified, since “Korday” post was build without taking into account the location of all controlling authorities at the border. To implement joint control at “Korday-Akjol” Kazakh-Kyrgyz border it is necessary to reconstruct the crossing points:

- design-exploration works;
- construction of observation shed;
- construction of road and car parking lot.

Also based on this experiment the Parties agreed that for each joint crossing point technological schemes of joint control will be developed.

Besides that ongoing joint customs control at Kazakh-Kyrgyz border will be possible after signing and effectiveness of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of Kyrgyz Republic on joint control at Kazakh-Kyrgyz state border.

Currently both Parties are preparing to sign the Agreement.

Implementation of provisions in the Agreement will allow to improve control procedures at the border, have closer interaction between controlling authorities, implement one-stop control and at one place, significantly reduce the time of control when moving people, goods and vehicles at crossing points on Kazakh-Kyrgyz border, and increase the turnover of goods and put through capacity of vehicles.