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International Convention on the Harmonization of

Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982

(“Harmonization Convention”): Annex 8 on road transport

Proposed amendments to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) and its Annex 8

Submitted by the International Road Transport Union

I. Proposed amendment to Article 1 of the Convention

New (i)

“X-ray inspection” means non-intrusive inspection techniques producing interior images of goods road vehicles/containers aimed at revealing contraband and illegal immigrants on-board.

II. Proposed amendment to Annex 8 of the Convention

New Art. 5bis

X-ray inspection for international road transport operations

(a) The Contracting Parties are requested to install appropriate information panels at concerned border crossings, which include pictograms, highlighting that X-ray scanning is performed and giving clear indications on what the driver should do to avoid unnecessary exposure. In addition, the Contracting Parties are invited to provide multilingual information leaflets, including pictograms, which describe the X-ray process and health and safety information.

(b) In order to facilitate and accelerate the border crossing process, the Contracting Parties, should endeavour to avoid repetitive X-ray inspections at border crossings and ports by accepting and mutually recognising the “International Vehicle/Container X-ray Scanning Certificate” as shown in Appendix 3 to this Annex.

(c) If the Contracting Parties accept such a certificate, no further X-ray inspection shall be carried out with the exception of risk-based assessment controls.

(d) Contracting Parties should ensure, with the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), the correct implementation of internationally accepted X-ray scanning procedures at borders. As a basis for implementing health and safety regulations and procedures, Contracting Parties should ensure that customs officers and X-ray equipment operators are properly trained in the functioning and risks of X-ray scanning machines enabling them to operate the equipment safely and provide adequate health and safety instructions to drivers.

(e) Contracting Parties, in cooperation with the X-ray machine manufactures, should ensure that X-ray equipment is properly maintained to avoid any unnecessary exposure of Customs officers, X-ray equipment operators and drivers to ionising radiation.

III. Proposal of a new Appendix 3 to the Annex 8 of the Convention

New Appendix 3 to Annex 8 of the Convention

International vehicle/container x-ray scanning certificate

(a) The objective of the International Vehicle/Container X-ray Scanning Certificate (IVXSC) is to facilitate border crossing procedures and, in particular, to avoid repetitive X-ray inspections of goods road vehicles en route on the territory of the Contracting Parties. Duly completed certificates validated by the Contracting Parties shall be accepted as bearing valid information by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties. Competent authorities shall refrain from conducting additional X-ray inspections apart from random checks and controls in case of suspected irregularities.

(b) In exceptional cases and, particularly, when irregularities are suspected or on the demand of the transport operator/driver, the commercial vehicle will be X-rayed again.

(c) The IVXSC, which shall conform to the model shown in Appendix 3, shall be issued and used under the supervision of a designated governmental authority in the country of the Contracting Party accepting such certificates in line with the procedure described in the annexed certificate.

(d) The use of the certificate by transport operators is optional.

(e) The model of the certificate may be reproduced in any of the languages of the Contracting Parties accepting such certificates provided that the layout of the certificate and the position of the items therein are not modified.

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)		INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE/CONTAINER X-RAY INSPECTION CERTIFICATE <i>In accordance with the provisions of Annex 8 – Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for International Road Transport – of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods 1982</i> Valid for international road transport of goods	
To be completed by the transport operators(s)/driver(s) of the goods road vehicle/container BEFORE X-ray inspection			
1. Transport operator/company (name and address; inc. country)		Tel. No.	
		Fax No.	
		E-mail	
2. Transport contract No.¹		TIR Carnet No. (if applicable)²	
3. Details of goods road vehicle/container			
3.1. Registration No.	Road tractor/lorry	Semi-trailer/trailer	Container
To be completed by the operator of the X-ray inspection station			
4. Authorised X-ray inspection station (name and address; inc. country)		5. Date of issue (day, month, year)	
I declare that the above X-ray inspections have been duly performed by the undersigned at an authorised X-ray inspection station and have not revealed any irregularity.		Stamp	
To be completed by the transport operator(s)/driver(s) of the goods road vehicle/container AFTER X-ray inspection			
I declare that:			
(a) the X-ray inspections stated overleaf have been performed by the above-mentioned X-ray inspection station;			
(b) points (1) to (5) have been duly completed; and			
(c) no additional load has been added to the goods road vehicle/container following its X-ray inspection at the above-mentioned X-ray inspection station.			
Date	Name of transport operator(s)/driver(s) of goods road vehicle/container		Signature(s)

¹ For instance: CMR Consignment Note Number

² In accordance with the TIR Convention 1975

International vehicle/container x-ray scanning certificate (IVXSC)

Legal basis

The IVXSC has been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Annex 8 — Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for International Road Transport — of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods 1982.

Objective

The IVXSC is designed to avoid repetitive X-ray inspections of goods road vehicles/container in international road transport, particularly at border crossings and ports. The use of this certificate by transport operators is optional.

Procedure

If Contracting Parties accept the IVXSC duly completed by (a) the operator of an approved X-ray inspection station and (b) the transport operator(s)/goods road vehicle driver(s), it shall be accepted and recognised as bearing valid information by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties. As a general rule, competent authorities shall accept the information contained in this certificate as valid and shall refrain from requiring any additional X-ray inspections. However, in exceptional cases, and particularly when irregularities are suspected, another X-ray inspection of the goods road vehicle/container may be carried out.

Sanctions

Transport operator(s)/goods road vehicles driver(s) are subject to national legislation for any false declaration made in the IVXSC.