



# The TIR Convention

**Erik Willems**

Customs expert

**Finland**

**Feb 2013**





# Overview

- Presentation of the TIR convention (General Overview)
- Approval of vehicles and containers : legal dispositions
- Guidance on the TIR website (standard approval reports).





UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE



# The TIR Convention

**CARNET TIR \***

**6 volets**

1. Valable pour prise en charge par le bureau de douane de départ jusqu'au ... Pêche  
Valid for the transport of goods by the Customs office of departure up to and including

2. Délivré par  
Issued by

3. Titulaire  
Holder

4. Signature du dirigeant de l'association  
Signature of authorized official of the being association and holder of their association

5. Signature du secrétaire  
Signature of the secretary of the international organization

6. Pays de départ  
Country of origin (Algeria) (\*)

7. Pays de destination  
Country of destination (\*)

8. Noms d'immatriculation du (des) véhicule(s) routier(s) (\*)  
Registration No(s) of road vehicle(s) (\*)

9. Certificat(s) d'agrément du (des) véhicule(s) routier(s) (du et date) (\*)  
Certificate(s) of approval of road vehicle(s) (du and date) (\*)

10. Noms d'identification du (des) conteneur(s) (\*)  
Identification No(s) of container(s) (\*)

11. Observations diverses  
Remarks

12. Signature du titulaire du carnet  
Signature of the carnet holder

(\*) Blotter le mention inutile.  
(Blank box indicator does not apply)

\* Not annex 1 to the Convention 1975, annexé sous les conditions de la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe.  
\* Not annex 1 to the Convention 1975, incorporated into the scope of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.







# Several Kinds of Customs Transits Systems

National transit

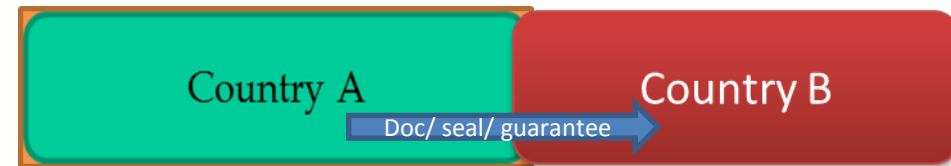


or



Bilateral or multilateral transit

Closed system between two or more countries (**access on invitation**)



Global transit → TIR





# TIR Convention

## Background & characteristics

- **History:**
  - **First Convention 1949, revision 1975**
  - **From 6 countries to 68 countries (Operational: 56)**
  - **During the last 15 years: 24 new Contracting Parties**
- **Objective:**
  - **Facilitation**
  - **revenue protection + Customs checks**
- **Only global transit procedure**
- **Intermodal (trucks and containers)**
- **Public/Private Partnership**





# THE TIR CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURE

## The five pillars of the TIR System

TIR Convention, 1975

5 pillars of the TIR system

International  
guarantee



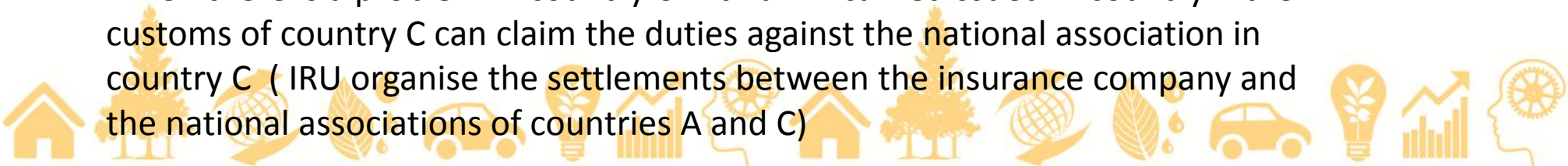


# International Guarantee

- Organised by the IRU
- Customs claim against the national association in their country



When there is a problem in country C with a TIR carnet issued in country A the customs of country C can claim the duties against the national association in country C ( IRU organise the settlements between the insurance company and the national associations of countries A and C)





# THE TIR CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURE

## The five pillars of the TIR System

TIR Convention, 1975

5 pillars of the TIR system

International  
guarantee

TIR  
Carnet







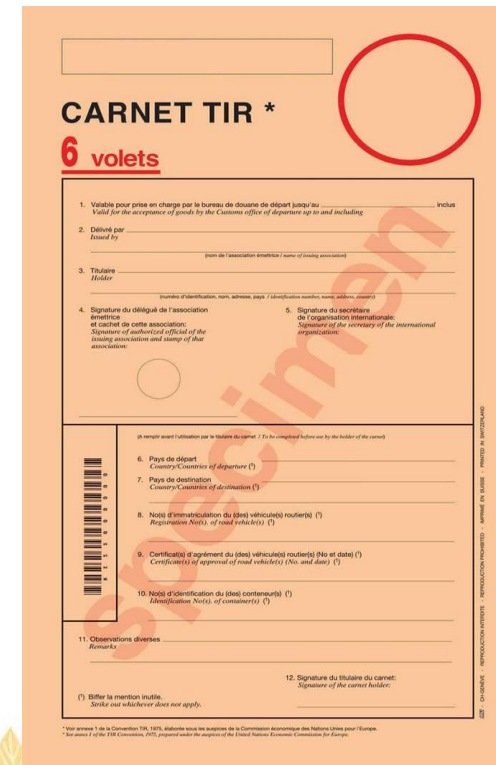
# Document : TIR Carnet

One single document, security elements printing and issued by the IRU only



Supported by IT tools from Unece : ITDB,

IRU : SafeTIR (cute wise)/ TIR EPD



**CARNET TIR \***

**6 volets**

- Valeable pour prise en charge par le bureau de douane de départ jusqu'au  inclus  
Valid for the acceptance of goods by the Customs office of departure up to and including
- Délivré par   
Issued by
- Titulaire   
Holder
- Signature du délégué de l'association émettrice et cachet de cette association.  
Signature of authorized official of the issuing association and stamp of that association.
- Signature du secrétaire de l'organisation internationale.  
Signature of the secretary of the international organization.

en remplir avant l'émission par le titulaire du carnet / To be completed before use by the holder of the carnet

- Pays de départ  
Country/Country of departure (\*)
- Pays de destination  
Country/Country of destination (\*)
- Notes d'immatriculation du (des) véhicule(s) routier(s) (\*)  
Registration No(s) of road vehicle(s) (\*)
- Certificat(s) d'agrément du (des) véhicule(s) routier(s) (No et date) (\*)  
Certificate(s) of approval of road vehicle(s) (No, and date) (\*)
- Notes d'identification du (des) contenu(s) (\*)  
Identification No(s) of contents (\*)

11. Observations diverses  
Remarks:

12. Signature du titulaire du carnet  
Signature of the carnet holder:

(\*) Effacer la mention inutile.  
Strike out whatever does not apply.

\* Voir annexes 1 de la Convention TIR, 1975, déclinée sous les auspices de la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe.  
\* See annex 1 of the TIR Convention, 1975, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.



# THE TIR CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURE

## The five pillars of the TIR System

TIR Convention, 1975

5 pillars of the TIR system

International  
guarantee

TIR Carnet

Mutual recognition of  
Customs controls





# Mutual recognition of Customs Control

## Article 5 :

1. Goods carried under the TIR procedure in sealed road vehicles, combinations of vehicles or containers shall not as a general rule be subjected to examination at Customs offices en route

## Article 19 :

The goods and the road vehicle ...shall be produced with the TIR Carnet at the Customs office of departure. The Customs authorities of the country of departure ...satisfying themselves as to the accuracy of the goods manifest...

- ➔ **Customs transit/destination rely on checks carried out at the Customs office of departure**
- ➔ **Inspection/sealing at the customs office of departure , no authorised consignor**
- ➔ **Customs office of departure must check the condition of the road vehicle (EA art 19)**



# THE TIR CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURE

## The five pillars of the TIR System

TIR Convention, 1975

5 pillars of the TIR system

International  
guarantee

TIR Carnet

Mutual recognition of  
Customs controls

Controlled  
access







# Controlled access (annex 9 )

Customs authorities give access to the TIR procedure :

To national associations to issue TIR Carnets and act as guarantor

For Transport operators to utilize TIR Carnets (also the national associations have their input)

The information concerning all persons authorised to use the TIR transit procedure is listed in UNECE's : International TIR Data Bank (ITDB).



# THE TIR CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURE

## The five pillars of the TIR System

TIR Convention, 1975

5 pillars of the TIR system

Secure vehicles  
or containers

International  
guarantee

TIR Carnet

Mutual recognition of  
Customs controls

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# THE TIR CUSTOMS TRANSIT PROCEDURE

## The five pillars of the TIR System

TIR Convention, 1975

5 pillars of the TIR system

Secure vehicles  
or containers

International  
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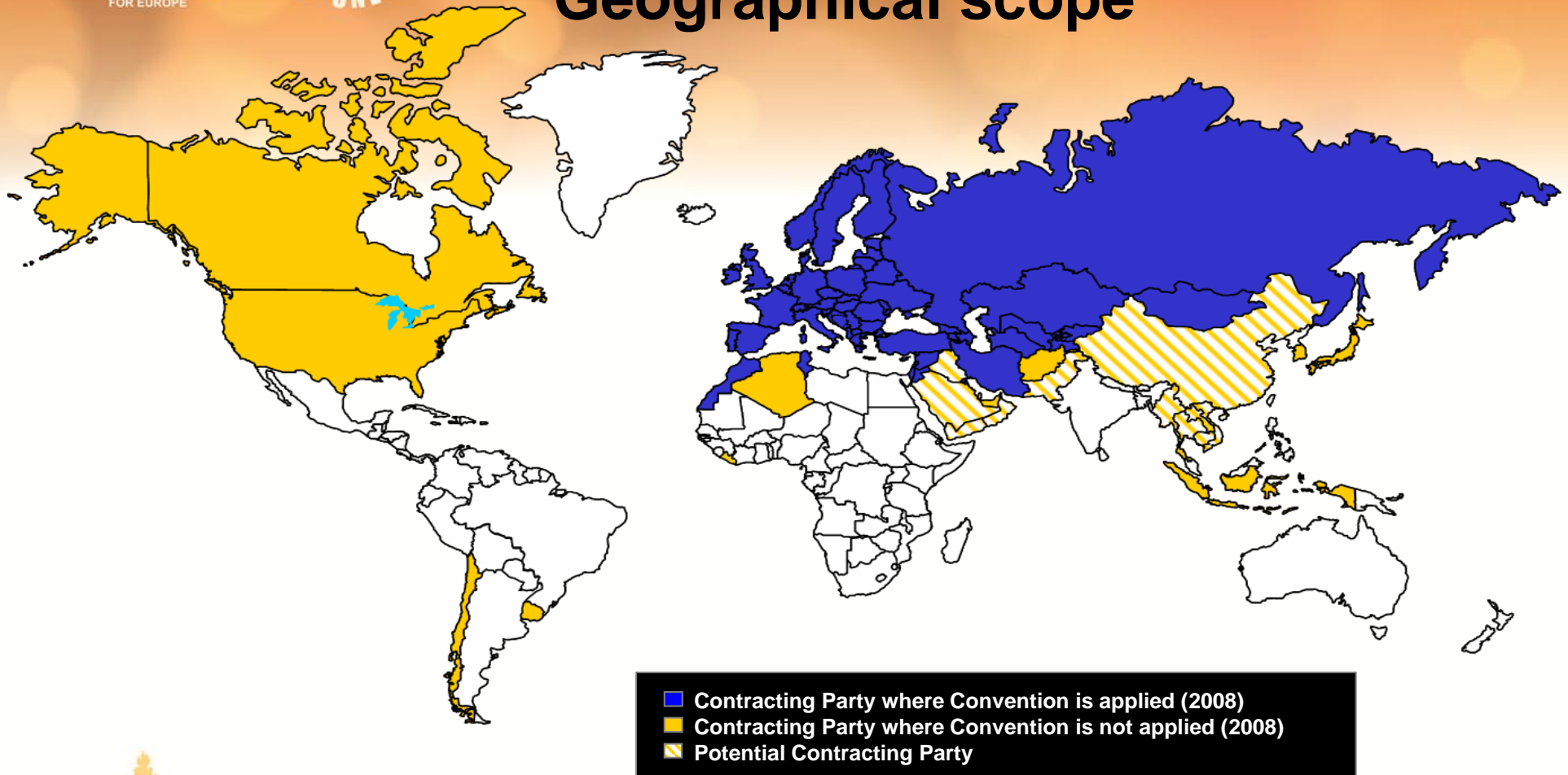
TIR Carnet

Mutual recognition of  
Customs controls

Controlled  
access



# Geographical scope







# Countries with most TIR carnets issued

- 1996 - Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Russia, Romania
- 2002 - Romania, Turkey, Lithuania, Belarus, Russian Federation
- 2013 Turkey (685.000) Russia (598.000) , Ukraine , Belarussia, .....Finland (11.400)





# Number of TIR Carnets issued

YEAR	TIR CARNETS ISSUED
1959	67,000
1969	790,035
1980	718,612
1990	748,600
2000	2,782,600
2012	3,158,300



# Possibilities to grow



## Possibilities :

- Computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR)
- Reactivation of the TIR in some countries : Afghanistan
- Joining of new countries : Saudi Arabia, Pakistan..
- More intensify use of intermodal aspects (boat/train )
- Simplified procedures (Authorized consignee/consignor)
- Using TIR for National customs Transit





# Questions ?







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# PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF ROAD VEHICLES/CONTAINERS

**Erik Willems**

Customs expert

**Finland**

**June 2013**





# FUNCTIONS /OBJECTIVES

- Prevent the removal of goods from the load compartment (or introduction into) without leaving obvious traces of tampering or breaking the Customs seal
- Facilitate simple and effective affixing of Customs seals
- No concealed spaces
- Make load compartments readily accessible for Customs inspection





# Obligation for approval + exceptions

**Art 3a) the transport operation must be performed  
(i) by...vehicles or containers previously  
approved ..**

## **Exceptions :**

- Heavy and bulky goods (= object which because of its weight, size or nature is not normally carried in a closed road vehicle or closed container)**
- Buses, cranes .. Considered as goods travelling by their own means (= Heavy and bulky goods)**





# Quiz

Which of the following is not considered as heavy or bulky goods?

- A. Bus travelling on its own wheels
- B. Livestock
- C. Milk in a tank
- D. Gravel on an open platform







# Chapter III: Transport of goods under the TIR Carnet

## (a) Approval of vehicles and containers Article 12

**Every road vehicle must as regards its construction and equipment fulfil the conditions set out in Annex 2 to the Convention and must have been approved according to the procedure laid down in Annex 3. The certificate of approval shall conform to the specimen in Annex 4.**





# Chapter III: Transport of goods under the TIR Carnet

## (a) Approval of vehicles and containers Article 13

**Containers must be constructed in conformity with the conditions laid down in Annex 7, Part I and must have been approved according to the procedure laid down in Annex 7, Part II.**

!! Containers approved in the framework of Container Convention are also approved for the TIR convention !!





# PROOF OF APPROVAL CERTIFICATE /PLATE

Road vehicles : certificate

Containers : approval plate

**Approval Certificate  
of a road vehicle for the transport of goods  
under Customs seal**

**Certificate No .....**

**APPROVED FOR TRANSPORT  
UNDER CUSTOMS SEAL**

**NL/26/73**

**TYPE .....**                      **MANUFACTURER'S No  
OF THE CONTAINER .....**





# APPROVAL AUTHORITIES

## Defined by national legislation:

- Customs
- Ministry of Transport
- An authorized private company







# TWO PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL

- Individually or
- By design type (series of road vehicles, containers )





# PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF ROAD VEHICLES : COMMON POINTS

- **Approval certificate is issued for all approved vehicles**
- **If the owner has changed, the certificate remains valid**
- **Vehicles are produced every two years for inspection and renewal of approval**
- **If a vehicle no longer complies with the technical regulations, it should be restored to the original condition**
- **If the essential features are changed, the vehicle must be re-approved**





# INDIVIDUAL APPROVAL

- Competent authority shall inspect road vehicle (standard approval reports)
- Deliver a certificate of approval





# APPROVAL BY DESIGN TYPE: FEATURES

- Granted by the competent authorities of the country of construction at request of the manufacturer
- Application shall contain identification numbers which will be assigned
- Application accompanied by drawings /detailed specifications
- Authorities can inspect vehicles/production process
- Holder fills in item 1 (registration No.) or, in some cases, item 8 (name and business address) on the approval certificate







# APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

- Model in Annex 4
- Format A3 folded in two
- Printed in the language of the country of issue and in French or English
- Photo or diagrams may be attached (authenticated by the issuing authority). Their number is indicated under item 6
- Number of seals, if more than one, is indicated under item 5 (comment)
- Original must be kept on the road vehicle



### APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

of a road vehicle for the transport of goods  
under Customs seal

Certificate No .....

**TIR Convention of 14 November 1975**

Issued by: .....  
(Competent Authority)

Certificate No

#### IDENTIFICATION

1. Registration No .....
2. Type of vehicle .....
3. Chassis No .....
4. Trade mark (or name of manufacturer) .....
5. Other particulars .....
6. Number of annexes .....

#### 7. APPROVAL

Valid until

- individual approval<sup>2/</sup>
- approval by design type<sup>2/</sup>

Authorization No (if applicable) .....

Place .....

Date .....

Stamp

#### 8. HOLDER, (manufacturer, owner or operator) (for TIR vehicles only)

Name and address .....

#### 9. RENEWALS

Valid until		
Place		
Date		
Signature		
Stamp		

<sup>2/</sup> mark applicable alternative with an "x".

Please see the "Important Notice" on page 4.



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<b>REMARKS</b> (reserved for the use of Competent Authorities)		Certificate No	
10. Defects noted		11. Rectification of defects	
Authority	Stamp	Authority	Stamp
Signature		Signature	
10. Defects noted		11. Rectification of defects	
Authority	Stamp	Authority	Stamp
Signature		Signature	
10. Defects noted		11. Rectification of defects	
Authority	Stamp	Authority	Stamp
Signature		Signature	
12. Other remarks			

Please see "Important Notice" on page 4.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

- When the authority which has granted the approval deems it necessary, photographs or diagrams authenticated by the authority shall be attached to the approval certificate. The number of those documents shall then be inserted by the competent authority, under item No. 6 of the certificate.
- The certificate shall be kept on the road vehicle. This must be the original of the certificate, not, however, a photocopy.
- Road vehicles shall be produced every two years, for the purposes of inspection and of renewal of approval where appropriate, to the competent authorities of the country in which the vehicle is registered or, in the case of unregistered vehicles, of the country in which the owner or user is resident.
- If a road vehicle no longer complies with the technical conditions prescribed for its approval, it shall, before it can be used for the transport of goods under cover of TIR Carnets, be restored to the condition which had justified its approval so as to comply again with the said technical conditions.
- If the essential characteristics of a road vehicle are changed, the vehicle shall cease to be covered by the approval and shall be re-approved by the competent authority before it can be used for the transport of goods under cover of TIR Carnets.



# MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF APPROVAL

- **Contracting Parties recognize the validity of the approval granted in other Contracting Parties**
- **However, they reserve the right to refuse to recognize the approval of road vehicles which do not meet the TIR technical conditions**
- **Contracting Parties shall avoid delaying traffic when the defects found are of minor importance and do not involve any risk of smuggling**
- **If a major defect is found, the competent authority may either refuse the vehicle to continue or allow to do so under the necessary precautions. In any case, before a new TIR transport the defect should be rectified.**







# PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF CONTAINERS :

- **Approval certificate is issued which gives the right to affix the an approval plate.**
- **Containers have not to be produced every two years for inspection and renewal of approval**
- **If a container no longer complies with the technical regulations, it should be restored to the original condition**
- **If the essential features are changed, the container must be re-approved**





# APPROVED FOR TRANSPORT UNDER CUSTOMS SEAL

NL/26/73

TYPE .....

MANUFACTURER'S No  
OF THE CONTAINER .....





# Questions ?





# Guidance on TIR Website

**Erik Willems**

Customs expert

**Finland**  
**June 2013**







# Documentation TIR Website

<http://www.unece.org/tir/training/english/tir-secure-vehicles-containers.html>

- **Convention**
- **Documents discussed at WP 30/AC2/TIRExB**
- **Presentations at TIR seminars**

**+**

- **Approval reports**
- **Good practice guide**
- **Power Points on secure vehicles**





# Sealing of Vehicles SECURITY and RISKS



## Good Practice Guide



**CAFRO SERBIA - MONTENEGRO**

**Enforcement Project**

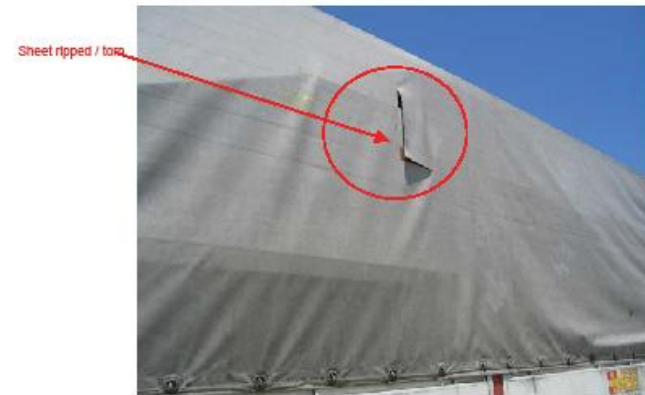
**Belgrade, 2005**



- Practical
- Lots of photos

The sheet may be accidentally ripped during the journey. Usually this is not serious damage and can be easily noticed - (Pic. A and B). The upper part (roof) of the sheet is more difficult to check and therefore more likely to have openings for fraudulent purposes.

Special attention should be paid to those parts of the sheet containing inscriptions - (i.e. Company name or logo) - as they might cover repairs made incorrectly and be difficult to detect - (Pic. C).



A: Sheet ripped during journey, with rather extensive damage. This trailer should NOT be allowed to continue to transport under customs seal - unless it is repaired.



B: Sheet ripped during journey, with minor damage. Dependent on the commodity being transported, this trailer COULD be allowed to complete the current journey - but should NOT be able to carry out further international transport without being repaired.

C: Company logo covering repair made incorrectly - sheet repaired by using adhesive tape on the inner side of the sheet.







# UNECE

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



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## TIR secure vehicles or containers

- [1. Approval report for sheeted vehicles](#)
  - [2. Approval report for solid-sliders](#)
  - [3. Approval report for vehicles with sideboards and sliding sheets](#)
  - [4. Approval report for vehicles with strap hooks and sliding sheets](#)
  - [5. Approval report for tankers](#)
  - [6. Approval report for vans](#)
  - [7. Approval report for hydraulic ramps for loading and unloading](#)
- [Good practice guide sealing of vehicles](#)
- [PPT approval of specific construction of road vehicles 2010](#)
- [PPT on approval of vehicles with sliding sheets 2006](#)
- [PPT on technical regulations 2011](#)
- [TIR technical regulations 2011](#)





# Several approval reports

- I. Approval report for Sliding sheets
- II. Approval report for solid-siders
- III. Approval report for vehicles with sideboards + sliding sheets ;
- IV. Approval report for vehicles with strap hooks + sliding sheets
- V. Approval report for tankers
- VI. Approval report for vans
- VII. Approval report for hydraulic ramps for loading /unloading



Vehicle registration number:	
Chassis number:	
<p><u>Construction:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(TIR Convention, Annex 2, Article 2, Paragraph 1 (a))</p> <p>_____</p> <p>(TIR Convention, Annex 2, Article 2, Paragraph 1 (a) - sketches 1-4.)</p>	<p>1: <u>The constituent parts of the load compartment assembled by:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bolts inserted from outside, the nut on the inside welded to the bolt</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rivets inserted from outside, secured on the inside</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Welding</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Compartment floor secured by self-tapping screws, nails or rivets - inserted from the inside</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Compartment floor secured by other means, e.g. double-flooring</p>
<p><u>Side-boards:</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(TIR Convention, Annex 2, Article 2, Paragraph 1 (a-b), Explanatory note 2.2.1 (b))</p>	<p>2: <u>Locking mechanisms secure:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Locking mechanisms for side-boards cannot be operated and opened, e.g. handles covered by the sheet.</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Locking mechanisms for side-boards secured by a folding TIR-ring integrated in the pillar.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>3: <u>Hinges and hinge-pins secure:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bearings or hinge-pins mounted on the chassis by welding or by bolts secured by welding</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hinges mounted on the side-board secured, i.e. bolts welded, no access to the bolts or secured by a bolt inserted vertically through the sideboard</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Self-securing hinges - the side-board must be open and lowered in order for the hinge to slide off the hinge-pin</p>
<p><u>Rear doors:</u></p> <p>(complete only if the vehicle is equipped with rear doors)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>(TIR Convention, Annex 2, Article 2, Paragraph 1 (a-b), Explanatory note 2.2.1 (a-b) - see also</p>	<p>4: <u>Door closing system secure:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cam engaging devices, bearings and saddles for locking rods secure.</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Manoeuvring handle and locking rod securing point: RIVETED / WELDED</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Customs sealing device (and the pivoting section) secured by welding or by a joining device requiring</p>

Vehicle registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

Chassis number: \_\_\_\_\_

Sheet:

\_\_\_\_\_

6: The sheet is made of (material):

- Strong canvas  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Plastic-covered or rubberized cloth - sufficient in strength and unstretchable

7: The sheet is made up of several pieces:

- Pieces sew n together w ith tw o seams - ALL seams must be machine-sew n.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Pieces w elded together - leaving a clearly-defined uniform relief pattern. Pieces cannot be separated and rejoined w ithout leaving obvious traces.

8: Condition of the sheet:

- The sheet is in good condition and made up in such a way that once the closing device has been secured, it is impossible to gain access to the load compartment w ithout leaving obvious traces.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The sheet is repaired.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Repairs made in accordance w ith methods described.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Eyelets at the edge of the sheet are reinforced. Reinforcement made of suitable material and intact.

(TIR Convention,  
Annex 2, Article 3,  
Paragraphs 1-11.  
Sketches no. 1-4 and  
explanatory notes).

Vehicle registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

Chassis number: \_\_\_\_\_

Sealing:

\_\_\_\_\_

(TIR Convention, Annex 2, Article 2, Paragraph 1 (b) - Explanatory note: 2.2.1 (b) (f)).

(TIR Convention, Article 16 - and Annex 5).

DECISION:

Required number of Customs seals and protection:

The vehicle requires: \_\_\_\_\_ seal(s) for Customs secure sealing.  
CLEARLY INDICATE the number of seals required

**IMPORTANT**  
In cases where more than ONE Customs seal is required for Customs secure sealing of the vehicle, the number of such seals *must* be indicated in the Certificate of Approval under point 5.  
A sketch or photographs *must* be attached to the Certificate of Approval, showing the *exact* location of the Customs seals.

The Customs seal(s) is adequately protected.  
\_\_\_\_\_

The vehicle is affixed with a TIR plate as described in Article 16 and Annex 5 of the Convention.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED**  
The vehicle fulfils the technical conditions as laid down in Annex 2 of the TIR Convention

**REJECTED**  
The vehicle does NOT fulfil the technical conditions as laid down in Annex 2 of the TIR Convention

Annex 2, Article 1:  
(a) No goods can be removed from or introduced into, the sealed part of the vehicle without leaving obvious traces of tampering or without breaking the Customs seal  
(b) Customs seals can be simply and effectively affixed  
(c) The vehicle contains no concealed space where goods may be hidden  
(d) All spaces capable of holding goods are readily accessible for Customs inspection

The vehicle is not compliant re. the following issues:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Questions ?

## Thank you!

Contact: [erik.willems@unece.org](mailto:erik.willems@unece.org)

