

# **Facilitation of Railway Border Crossing Operations**

Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party /  
Group on Intermodal Transport and  
Logistics (Geneva, 26-28.9.2005)



# Freight traffic

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## 1982 International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods

total                    44 Contracting Parties (incl. EC)

of which                18 OSZhD

                             31 OTIF

                             9 both OSZhD and OTIF

7 Annexes existing

New Annexes 8 (road) and **9 (rail) in preparation**



# Draft new Annex 9 to the 1982 Harmonization Convention

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- OSZhD initiative
- Work under the auspices of UNECE
- OTIF participation and contribution:  
proposals considered
  - in Brest (prep. meeting, 16-18.3.2005) and
  - in Warsaw (expert group meeting, 1-3.6.2005)



# Facilitation of visa procedures

## Result of the Expert working group

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### Article 2 - Border Crossing

1. The Contracting Parties **seek to** facilitate all border crossing procedures including visa formalities for the engine crews, members of refrigerator section teams, for the persons accompanying cargo, as well as for the personnel of the adjacent border railway (transfer) stations [hereinafter border (transfer) stations].
2. The frontier crossing procedures for the persons listed in paragraph 1 of Article 2, including their service identification papers, are set up by bilateral agreements.



# Facilitation of visa procedures

## OTIF proposal (1)

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### Article 2 – Facilitation of visa procedures

The Contracting Parties **facilitate** visa procedures for the engine crews, members of refrigerator section teams, for the persons accompanying cargo, as well as for the personnel of the adjacent border railway (transfer) stations [hereinafter border (transfer) stations] **in accordance with national best practice accorded [to diplomats] [for any other visa applicants enjoying preferential treatment] under national immigration rules or international commitments.**



## OTIF proposal (2)

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- **Customs officers should also be included** (to the extent that they are not covered by the term "personnel of the adjacent border railway stations"); here the **official papers ("служебное удостоверение") should be sufficient.**

See Facilitation Conventions  
Goods/Passengers 1952

# Fast inspection

## Result of the Expert working group

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### **Article 4 – Speeded inspection of rolling stock, containers and goods**

The Contracting Parties shall carry out coordinated actions to ensure the organization of fast inspection of rolling stock, containers, piggybacks, transit goods, as well as the processing of carriage and accompanying documents.

# Fast inspection

## OTIF proposal – technical inspections

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### Principles:

1. Firstly, mutual recognition of technical inspections should be aimed at; proof of inspections carried out would have to be available as early as possible at the border crossing.
2. In addition, faster inspections would have to be performed at border crossings. These should be restricted to essential points and to features that have changed.
3. Agreement on criteria to be applied.





# Fast inspection

## OTIF proposal – transit goods

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No inspection of transit goods if reliable documentation about the goods is provided and if the rolling stock, container, piggyback or loading unit is properly closed and safely sealed

# Mutual recognition of inspections

## Result of the Expert working group

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### Article 5 - Inspection

The Contracting Parties:

- i. **seek to** ensure mutual recognition of all types of inspections for rolling stock, containers, piggybacks, goods carried, **if the objectives of such inspections match each other;**

# Mutual recognition of inspections

## OTIF proposal

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The Contracting Parties:

- i. **shall agree to ensure** mutual recognition of all types of inspections for rolling stock, containers, ... **if both the object and the purpose of the inspection correspond.**



# Customs controls

## Result of the Expert working group

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### Article 5 (ii)

The Contracting Parties:

- ii. carry out customs control (inspection) on the basis of risk evaluation (relying on the principle of selection), **if national regulations do not prescribe more stringent criteria**

# Customs controls

## OTIF proposal

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### The Contracting Parties:

- ii. carry out customs control (inspection) on the basis of risk evaluation (relying on the principle of selection), **unless both sides agree that particular situations justifiable in individual cases require more stringent criteria**

# Time standards/Monitoring

## Result of the Expert working group

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### Article 6 – Time standards

1. The Contracting Parties shall ensure the accomplishment of time standards, set by bilateral agreements, for technological operations on the reception and transfer of trains at the border (transfer) stations, to include all types of control, and seek to minimize the time standards by means of perfecting technologies and using new equipment.
2. (Monitoring) deleted

# Time standards/Monitoring

## OTIF proposal

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- **Agree a minimum objective**, for instance a 10% reduction in the standard in the first year, with a 5% reduction in the following x years.
- The reductions achieved at every border crossing should be **reported to the UN/ECE** every year together with the potential for further reductions.

# Passenger Traffic

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**1952 International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage by Rail**

Total 10 Contracting Parties (10 OTIF Member States)

**Draft new Convention in preparation**





# Waiting time at the border

## Result of the Expert working group

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### General

The control **may be** carried out unilaterally or jointly:

- at the border station;
- on move;
- while replacing the coaches.

### Article 6 (4)

As a rule, the duration of stay for the international trains subject to examination shall not exceed 40 minutes for a train except the border crossings, where the coaches are placed from one track gauge to another.

# Waiting time at the border

## OTIF proposal (addition)

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Wherever coaches are being placed on other bogies of another rail gauge, border and customs examinations on international trains **shall be carried out** during that operation.

# Luggage Control

## Result of the Expert working group

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### Article 8 (1)

If at frontier stations packages cannot be properly examined in the due time they shall be unloaded to avoid the train be held up.

# Luggage Control

## OTIF proposal

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If at frontier stations packages cannot be **cleared through the customs and examined in the time specified under article 6, paragraph 4**, they shall be unloaded to avoid the train be held up