NATIONAL CONTROL MEASURES

New order No. 828 of 01.08.2003 by the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation

Note by the TIR secretariat

1. The State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation has adopted Order No. 828 which came into force on 1 September 2003 and which will be effective until 1 January 2004 when the newly adopted Customs Code of the Russian Federation is scheduled to enter into force.

2. According to SCC, the main objective of Order No. 828 is to facilitate Customs procedures at road border crossings with a view to reducing unnecessary delays and queues. The Order has introduced deadlines for Customs officials when conducting Customs procedures at border crossings. In particular, a Customs transit operation has to be started within 15 min from the moment the transport operator has submitted the necessary documents, unless a decision regarding physical inspection has been taken (see para. 3 below).

3. Physical inspection may only be performed in the following cases:
   - Customs seals are missing, broken or different from those indicated in accompanying documents;
   - the load compartment is found to have major defects;
   - the TIR Carnet (ATA Carnet) bears no Customs stamps of the country(ies) of departure and country(ies) of transit;
   - the consignment note has not been signed or stamped by the consignor and the transport operator;
- there are uncertified erasures and over-writings in transport and commercial documents;
- there are evidences of a Customs infringement or there is relevant intelligence in writing;
- at the written request of the transport operator or his representative;
- physical examination is obligatory according to specific SCC orders related to high-sensitive goods.

4. The above list is exhaustive. Physical inspections have to be carried out as soon as possible, but not later than within 24 hours.