



TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)
COMMISSION DE CONTROLE TIR (TIRExB)
ИСПОЛНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ СОВЕТ МДП (ИСМДП)

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Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

Fifty-ninth session
Geneva, 30 June–1 July 2014
Agenda item V (c)

Computerization of the TIR procedure

Central database on certificates of approval

Note by the secretariat

I. Background and mandate

1. At its twentieth session, the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1), in the framework of the discussion on the dematerialization of documents attached to the TIR Carnet, recommended the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB), within its mandate to coordinate and foster the exchange of intelligence and other information among competent authorities of Contracting Parties (Annex 8, Article 10 (c)), to study the possibility of establishing, at the TIR secretariat, an international database for the registration of certificates of approval, issued in compliance with Annexes 3 and 4 of the TIR Convention. GE.1 was of the view that such a database would provide further facilitation for transport companies and, once the eTIR system would be in place, allow replacing the attachment of scanned versions of certificates of approval to each and every declaration by a simple reference (identification number) to the certificate, which information would be securely centrally stored (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2013/5, para. 16). Furthermore, at a TIR seminar on the construction of customs secure vehicles for TIR operations which was conducted in Helsinki on 18-19 June 2013, experts also recommended introducing an international central database for all approval certificates and requested the secretariat to bring this issue to the attention of TIRExB (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2013/8, paras. 67-69).

2. At its fifty-first session, the TIRExB requested the secretariat to submit, for discussion at a future session, first considerations about the possible establishment of central databases on customs offices and certificates of approval at the TIR secretariat, as further contribution to the eTIR Project. (TIRExB/REP/2012/51, para. 37)

3. In line with this request, the secretariat prepared informal document No. 2 (2013) containing project briefs for both projects. At its fifty-second, the Board took note of the project briefs and recommended future TIRExBs to seriously consider the establishment of these databases.

4. At its fifty-fifth session, the Board considered Informal documents 8 (2013) and requested the secretariat to finalize and distribute (at the beginning of 2014) a short survey, as contained in annex to Informal document No. 8 (2013), soliciting information on the issuance of certificates of approval at the national level. (TIRExB/REP/2013/55, para.43)

5. The survey on the national procedures related to the issuance of certificates of approval of road vehicles for the transport of goods under Customs seals was made available online on 19 February 2014 and customs administrations were requested to provide their replies before 31 March 2014.

6. This document presents the results of the survey, which was replied online by the customs administrations of the following 29 Contracting Parties: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

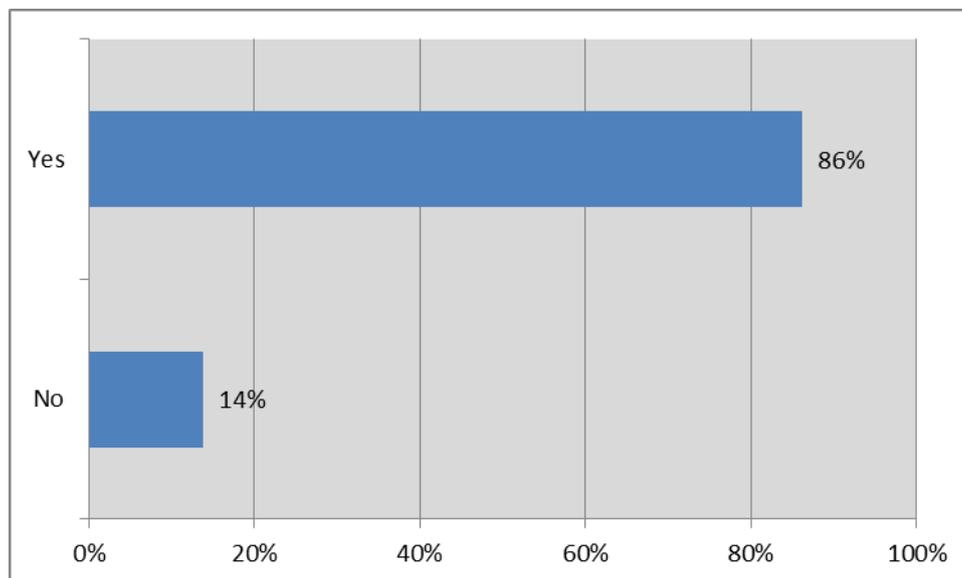
II. Results

Question 1

In your country, in the process of issuing a certificate of approval of a road vehicle for the transport of goods under customs seals, does the responsible customs office keep a record of the issuance of the certificate (or copy of the certificate)?

Number of replies: 29

Yes	86.2%	(25)
No	13.8%	(4)

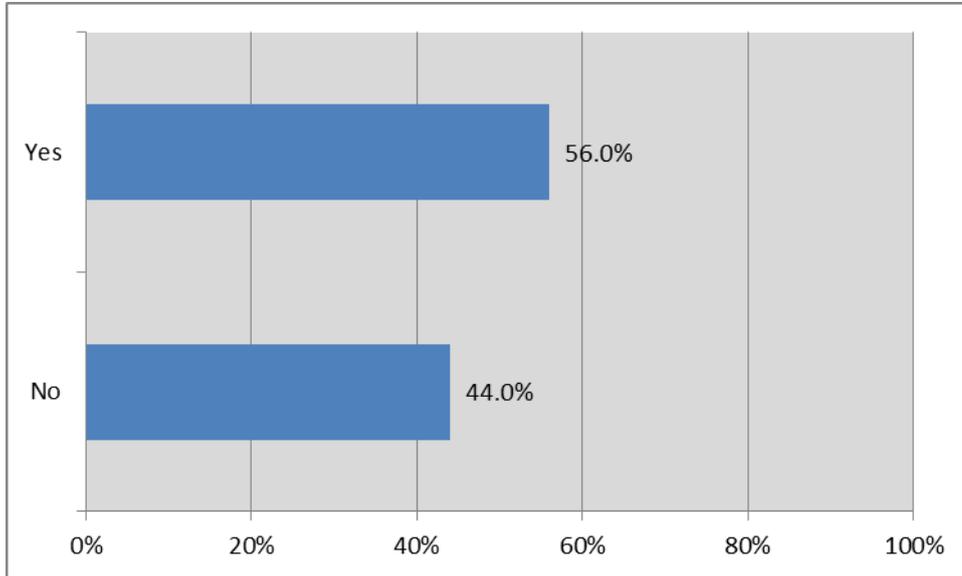


Question 2

Are records kept in electronic form?

Number of replies: 25

Yes	56.0%	(14)
No	44.0%	(11)

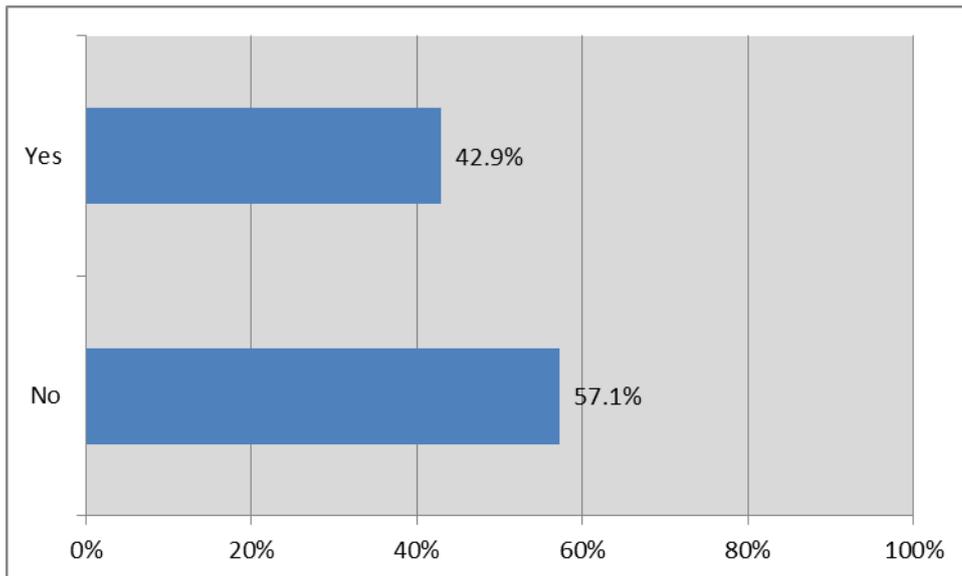


Question 3

Are those records centralized nationally?

Number of replies: 14

Yes	42.9%	(6)
No	57.1%	(8)

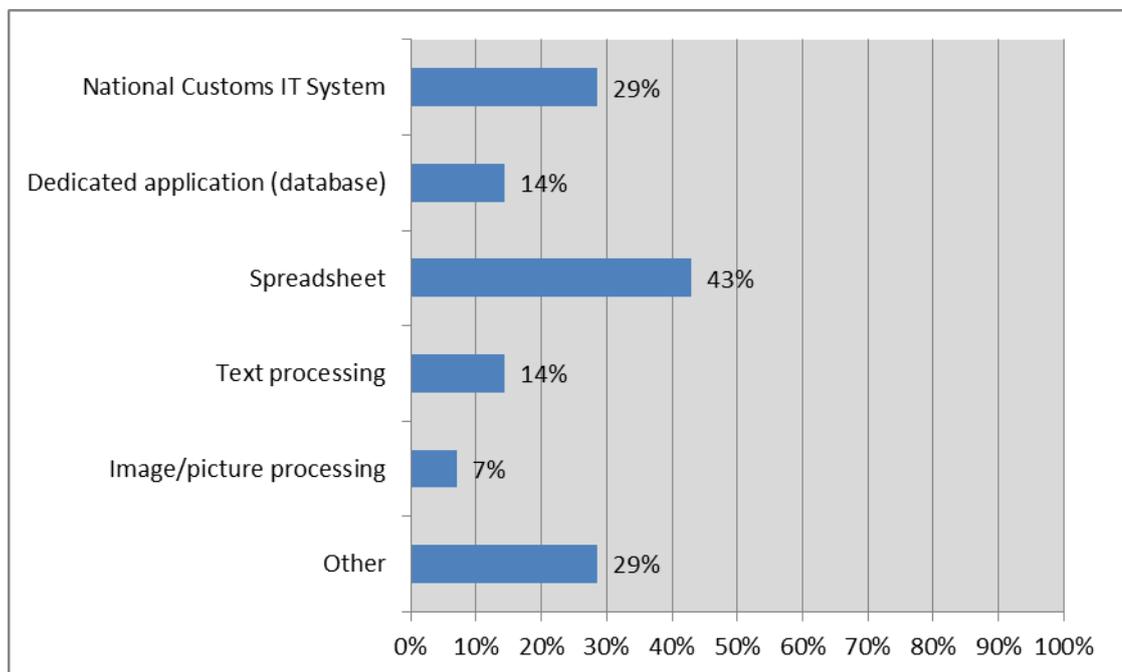


Question 4

Which software is used by the responsible customs office?

Number of replies: 14

National customs IT system	28.6%	(4)
Dedicated application (database)	14.3%	(2)
Spreadsheet	42.9%	(6)
Text processing	14.3%	(2)
Image/picture processing	7.1%	(1)
Other	28.6%	(4)



Those who answered ‘Other’ provided the following explanations:

We are using a database in excel form, which is stored separately at each regional customs office (15 regional offices in CZ) and data are sent to the general directorate (central level) for each quarter.

At this moment, the data are stored at a dedicated email address. In the near future, the data will be saved at a database. So far, the final solution is still open.

Electronic register, which is a part of a local application used also for other customs control purposes.

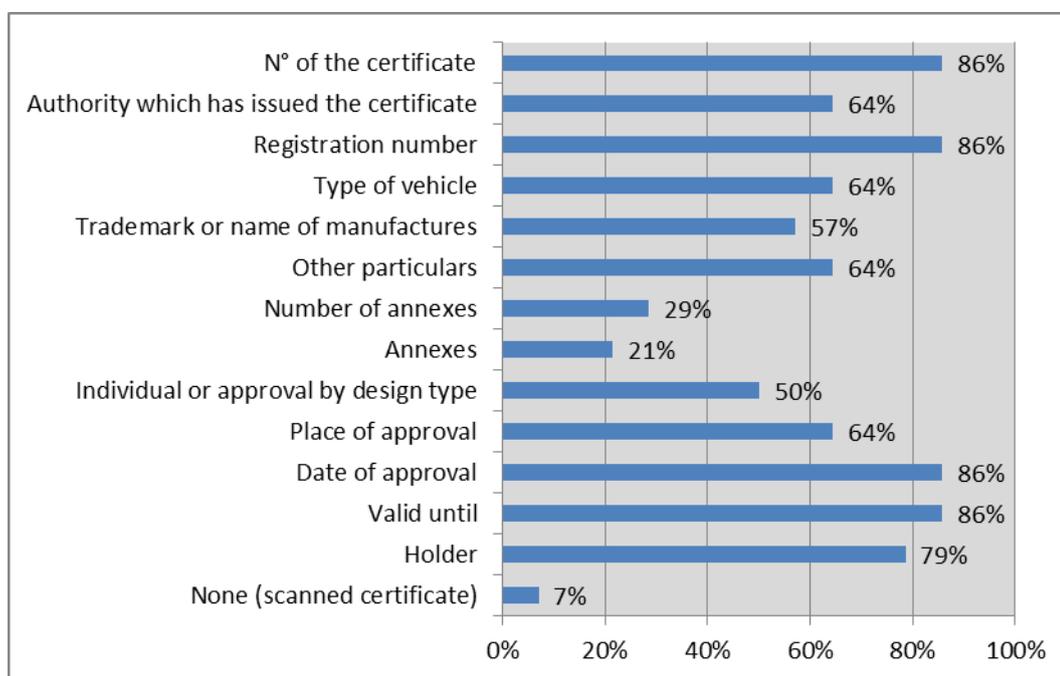
The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) are the UK authority responsible for the inspection of vehicles and issuance of certificates. VOSA hold original data, but VOSA and HMRC systems do not interface and so this information is recorded and held centrally in the Central Community Transit Office to allow for instant access.

Question 5

Which of the following data elements are recorded (other than in the form of a scanned image)?

Number of replies: 14

N° of the certificate	85.7%	(12)
Authority which has issued the certificate	64.3%	(9)
Registration number	85.7%	(12)
Type of vehicle	64.3%	(9)
Trademark or name of manufactures	57.1%	(8)
Other particulars	64.3%	(9)
Number of annexes	28.6%	(4)
Annexes	21.4%	(3)
Individual or approval by design type	50.0%	(7)
Place of approval	64.3%	(9)
Date of approval	85.7%	(12)
Valid until	85.7%	(12)
Holder	78.6%	(11)
None (scanned certificate)	7.1%	(1)

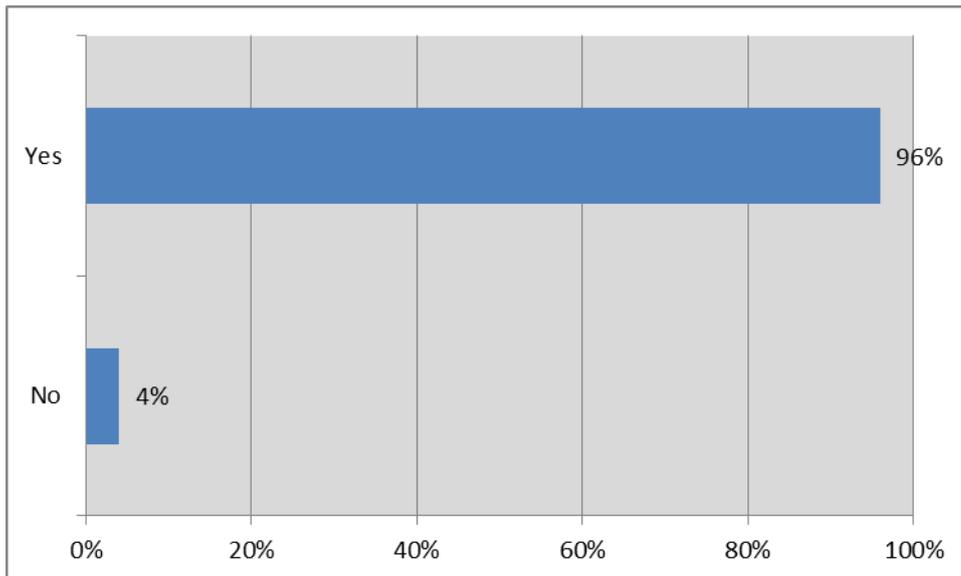


Question 6

In the process of renewal a certificate of approval of a road vehicle for the transport of goods under customs seals, does the responsible customs office keep a record of the renewal of the certificate (or copy of the certificate)?

Number of replies: 25

Yes	96%	(24)
No	4%	(1)

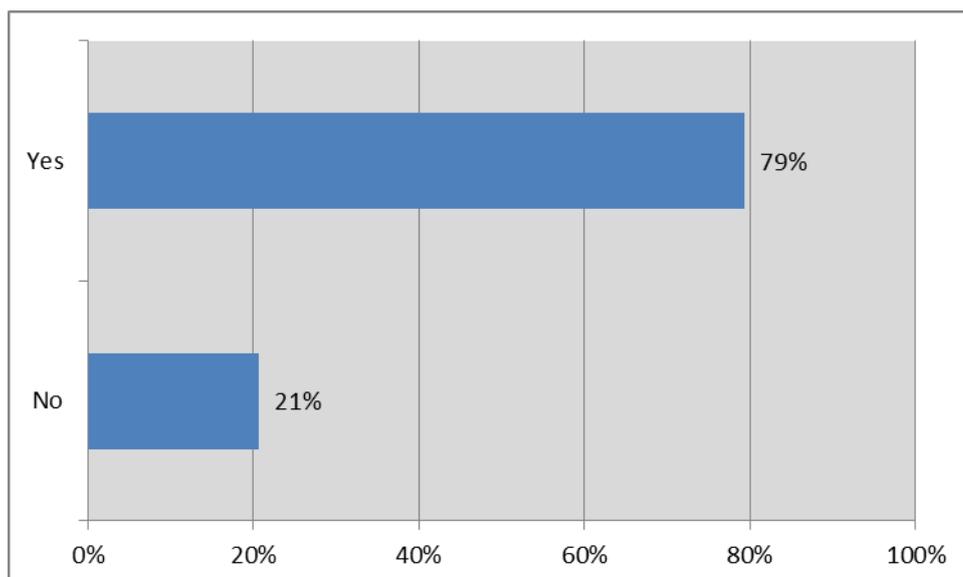


Question 7

Are information regarding the renewal of certificates handled in the same way (same software) as those on the issuance of the certificates?

Number of replies: 29

Yes	79.3%	(23)
No	20.7%	(6)

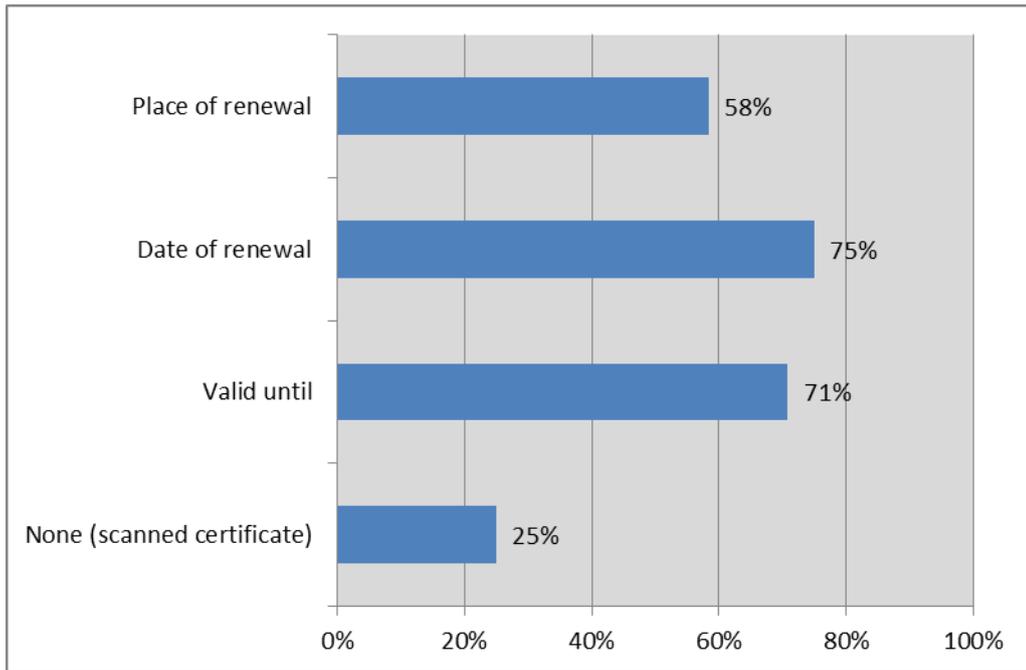


Question 8

In your country, in the process of issuing a certificate of approval of a road vehicle for the transport of goods under customs seals, does the responsible customs office keep a record of the issuance of the certificate (or copy of the certificate)?

Number of replies: 24

Place of renewal	58.3%	(14)
Date of renewal	75.0%	(18)
Valid until	70.8%	(17)
None (scanned certificate)	25.0%	(6)

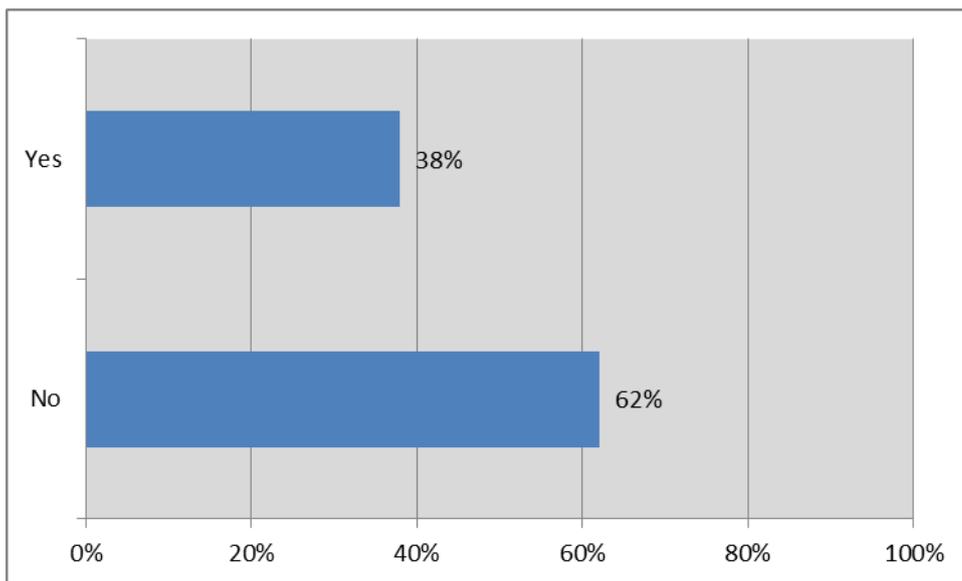


Question 9

Did your administration computerize parts of the procedures related to the certificates of approval or plans to do so in the near future?

Number of replies: 29

Yes	37.9%	11
No	62.1%	18



Those who answered 'Yes' provided the following explanations:

It is planned to have a centralized database.

MCA established dedicated application (SIM) centralized nationally

Online applications should be possible in the future

Our computerized and centralized procedure related to certificates of approval is under construction. We hope that the computerized and centralized database can start in May 2014.

Revenue Service plans to computerize part of data processing

The electronic register is not a central system; data can be viewed only by the customs office that recorded them. We have plans to introduce a tool allowing for nationally centralized records concerning certificates of approval.

The whole certification process was renewed in Finland in 2013. Data is and will be saved to database as soon as the final solution is available. At the moment the data is saved in a dedicated mailbox.

We are currently working on a centralized system for documents which includes the certificate of approval

We are planning central intranet database with web interface.

We have determined the work-flow of issuing a certificate of approval of a road vehicle. Writing of software will be requested from IT Department. The computerization of the procedures related to the certificates of approval will be finished by the end of 2015 in Turkey.

Those who answered 'No' provided the following explanations:

As per Q7- VOSA handle the process and the original data electronically and so further computerization by HMRC has not been considered justified against other priorities.

Ireland does not issue these certificates of approval

Plans to computerize all procedures starting from 2014 from Association ABBAT as guarantying association

Si l'administration douanière française n'a pas encore envisagé au niveau national une centralisation informatisée des données relatives aux certificats d'agrément TIR des véhicules, elle est extrêmement favorable aux travaux menés par la TIRExB pour une base de données internationale recensant l'ensemble des certificats d'agrément. [Even though the French customs administration has not yet envisaged at national level a central computerized system for data on certificates of approval, it is extremely interested in the activities of TIRExB towards establishing an international database by means of surveying certificates of approval]

The computerization of this process is not a high priority task for the administration, taking into account other issues and limited financial resources.

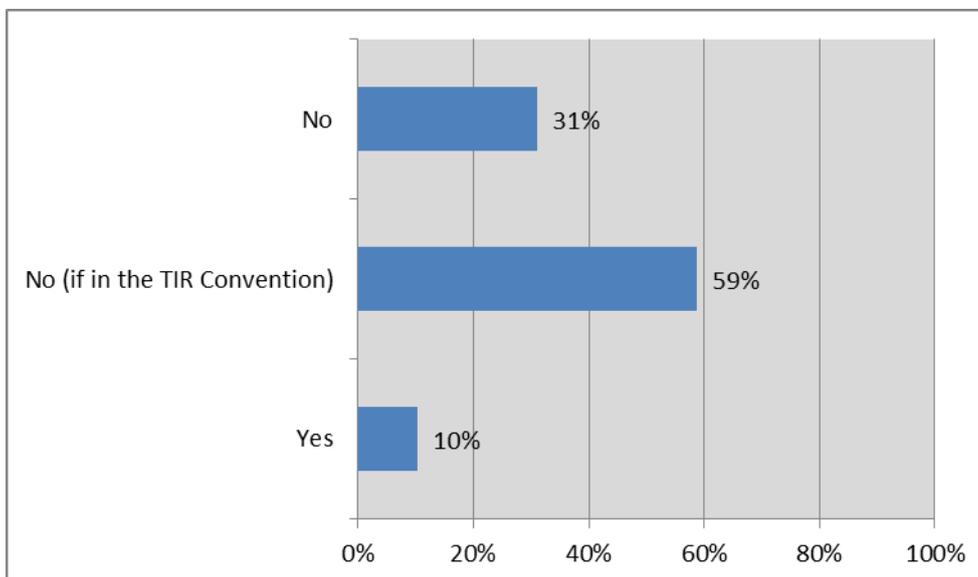
The possibility of computerization will be examined

Question 10

In your country, is there any law (e.g. data protection law) that would forbid your administration to store the data of the certificates of approval in a secure database managed by an internationally recognized body such as the TIRExB? This database would follow the same principles and rules as the International TIR Database - ITDB -, which customs administrations consult and update daily?

Number of replies: 29

No	31.0%	(9)
No (if in the TIR Convention)	58.6%	(17)
Yes	10.3%	(3)



Those who answered 'Yes' provided the following explanations:

National Tax Law

PUL (Personal Data Act), TDL (Customs Data Act)

Box 8 of the Approval Certificate requires the holder's personal information which would be covered under the Data Protection Act 2000. Other legislation requires any sharing of information to be supported by a legal gateway. I have not seen a specific provision for this in the TIR Convention.

III. Analysis and considerations by the secretariat

7. In 86% of the countries that have responded to the survey, the government agency responsible for the issuance of certificates of approval keeps records or copies of the issued certificates and more than half of those keep records or copies in electronic format. Less than half of those keeping electronic records do so in a nationally centralized manner and there is no uniform approach on the tools used to keep those records. Roughly 80% of the respondents indicated that the renewal process is handled in the same way as the issuance process.

8. During the issuance and the renewal processes, not all data elements are stored by those keeping electronic records. The large majority keeps track of the number of the certificate, the registration number, date of approval, expiry date and name of the holder. Roughly half keep track of the authority which has issued the certificate, type of vehicle, trademark or name of the manufacturers, other particulars, approval type (Individual or by design type) and the place of approval. Very few countries keep track of the number of annexes and the annexes themselves.

9. 40% of respondents indicated that their country has computerized parts of the procedures related to the certificates of approval or plans to do so in the near future. Among the 60% that indicated that nothing has been done or will be done in the near future, some indicated longer terms plans whereas other stressed their support for the implementation of an international registry.

10. Providing that the proper provisions are included in the TIR Convention, 90% of respondents indicate that sharing the information contained in the certificate of approval electronically would not breach any of their national laws.

11. In view of the above and considering the TIRExB's Terms of Reference, item 8, sub-item (a) as well as the experience of the TIR secretariat in the development and maintenance of the ITBD and the ITDBonline+ web application, the establishment of a central database on certificates of approval seem not only desirable but also feasible. Even if it seems not very likely that such database would be used by all Contracting Parties from day one, it would constitute a significant step towards the full computerization of the TIR procedure and the fulfilment of the already established TIRExB mandate.

IV. Considerations by the Board

12. The Board may wish to consider if the establishment of such database is feasible, if the TIR secretariat should start working on it and when as well as which amendment to the TIR Convention could be envisaged to secure that Contracting Parties would not have issues with national data protection laws.
