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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

**Group of Experts on Conceptual and
Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure**

Informal preparatory meeting

Geneva, 3-4 November 2020

Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda

**eTIR conceptual, functional and technical specifications version 4.3
Amendments**

Procedure for drawing samples

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. At its thirty first session, the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) requested the secretariat to make a proposal to deal with the provision of Explanatory Note 0.21-3 regarding the notification of the drawing of samples of goods by customs authorities in the course of an examination, possibly using the I7 message to correct the declaration data or using the additional information attribute of the start TIR operation message. This document presents draft proposals by the secretariat.

II. Procedure for drawing samples

2. Explanatory Note 0.21-3 reads as follows: “If in the course of an examination, Customs authorities draw samples of goods, a note recording full particulars of the goods taken must be made by those authorities on the goods manifest of the TIR Carnet.”

3. For the eTIR procedure, in the absence of a TIR Carnet, an alternative method needs to be identified to ensure that this information is made available to all remaining customs administration along the itinerary.

4. The following three options could be envisaged to ensure that this information is adequately shared with all parties concerned.

1. Amendment of the declaration data

5. The customs office drawing samples could use the “Record declaration data” (I7) message (with a “Message function, coded” value of 4 – Change) to reflect any changes in the good manifest following the draw of samples, i.e. reducing the quantities or the number of packages originally declared.

2. TIR operation related messages

6. If a customs office of departure or entry draws samples, it could use the “Remarks” attribute in the “AdditionalInformation” class of the “Start TIR operation” (I9) message to indicate that the samples have been drawn. However, this attribute is a text field and is already used for other purposes such as the indication of a national itinerary and is maximally 512 characters long.

7. If a sample is drawn at a customs office of destination or exit, it could use the “Reservations” attribute in the “AdditionalInformation” class of the “Terminate TIR operation” (I11) message to indicate that the samples have been drawn. However, this attribute, which is also a text field of maximum 512 characters, is already used to indicate the reservation when a termination is certified with reservations.

3. Accompanying document

8. Considering that drawing samples is not a regular procedure, the necessary information could also be manually written on the accompanying document, stamped and signed by the responsible customs officer.

III. Considerations

9. The Group of Experts may wish to consider the above proposals and instruct the secretariat accordingly.
