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**Draft**

**Automated Importation System (AIS)**

**(Basis for drafting) User Requirements**

This document will be submitted for discussion in the Customs 2007 "eCustoms Group", and subsequently in the Customs Code Committee and in the Trade Contact Group, before being finalised submitted to the Customs Policy Group.

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## 1. Introduction

The Commission Communication on a simple and paperless environment for customs and trade<sup>1</sup> sets out the objective of ensuring interoperability between Member States' electronic clearance systems (points 3.2. and 4.2.1). This objective has been endorsed by the Council Resolution on this Communication<sup>2</sup> and the Council has asked for the elaboration of a multiannual strategic plan as well as individual project plans. A first draft of the multiannual project plan has been laid down in Doc. TAXUD/4772004. Part of this plan is the introduction of electronic systems allowing customs clearance in cases where more than one Member State is involved. This objective has already been achieved with regard to transit (NCTS), apart from the TIR procedure, and is already being pursued with regard to the Export Control System (ECS) which will form the basis of a Community-wide Automated Export System (AES). The next logical step is to introduce a Community-wide Automated Import System (AIS).

The purpose of the AIS will be:

- to allow for the exchange of data between customs administrations, in particular in the case in which the office of entry and import are in different MS;
- to allow for the exchange of data between the importer and the customs administrations;
- to allow for a seamless flow of data between AIS and other systems (AES, NCTS...) allowing the importer where possible to give the data once;
- to allow for automatic calculation of customs duties;
- To allow for
  - the transmission of pre-arrival notices, which have been lodged at the customs office of import, to the customs office of entry, even if they are in different MS;
  - the transmission of arrival notices requested by offices of import in a different MS from the one of the office of entry at which the pre-arrival declaration is lodged and at which the goods are presented;
  - the acceptance and processing of a customs declaration placing the goods under a customs procedure at an office of import in a different MS from the one of the office of entry;
  - and for the subsequent release of the goods by the office of entry on notice of clearance/release from the office of import, without removal (transit) of the goods to the office of import.

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<sup>1</sup> COM (2003) 452 final, 24.7.2003

<sup>2</sup> OJ 2003 No C , p.

- To allow for the tracking of the goods during their movement within the EU customs territory.

This document contains a first draft of the definition of the user requirements in order to allow for a discussion with the stakeholders (Member States' customs administrations, traders, Commission).

## **2. Scope**

The AIS covers all goods under customs supervision which need the involvement of the customs authorities in another Member State, except goods covered by NCTS or ECS. Typical cases covered by the AIS are:

- an importer lodges an electronic pre-arrival, summary or normal customs declaration either in the MS where he is established (and the customs office of entry is situated in another MS), or at the customs office of entry.
- an importer lodges the initial electronic customs declaration at the customs office of entry in one MS and is established in another MS where he will lodge the supplementary declaration, or at the customs office of the MS where he is established.
- goods are transferred between MS under a special procedure that suspends customs duties (e.g. customs warehousing).
- All accompanying documents to the customs declaration should be provided or made available electronically.

Such a system would make the use of special accompanying documents (such as T5) in most cases superfluous.

The system does not cover transactions involving customs offices within the same MS, unless a MS chooses to use the AIS for such cases, too.

The system will be used both for complete and for simplified declarations (see addendum on centralised clearance). However, in both cases only a reduced data set will be exchanged. The exchange of data will be based on the new legislation for the SAD, as well as the data elements to be laid down for the summary declaration. It is intended to merge the data elements for the summary declaration with those for

- the incomplete declaration,
- the simplified declaration procedure, and
- the notification under the local clearance procedure.

These data should be the same for all MS and will form the basis of the data exchange between customs offices in different MS.

Where it is possible to re-use the data from ECS or NCTS, the system should be able to do so.

### **3. Common domain**

The AIS shall cover the information exchange between customs offices in different MS, where such exchange is foreseen under the Customs Code (CC) or its implementing provisions (CCIP), and would be able to re-use data covered by NCTS or the ECS, if relevant..

The common domain covers the following data exchanges:

- Identification of the person who lodges the customs declaration, through a common identification number
- In the case of an AEO access to the common data base
- to inform the customs office of import or entry of a pre-arrival declaration received,
- to inform the customs office of import or entry of an initial customs declaration which will have to be matched with a supplementary declaration,
- to inform the customs office of entry of the risk analysis results based on the pre-arrival declaration
- to inform the customs office of import of the arrival of goods and, where appropriate, of the physical control results,

to inform customs offices involved in the control of movements between two MS of the departure and arrival of goods, as well as the control results upon arrival where NCTS and ECS are not applied.

### **4. External domain**

The information exchange between the person making the declaration and customs could be organised as follows:

1. The importer has a single electronic access point in the EU for lodging customs declarations, even if the import takes place in more than one MS
2. This implies that the importer or the person who lodges the import declaration, receives a common identification number.

The importer has the following options :

- a) Install electronic data interchange (EDI) software that interfaces directly with the customs administration.
- b) Lodge the declaration via Internet through the Common Customs Portal
- c) Use a customs agent or broker who has an electronic entry point to customs through options 1 or 2

## 5. Supplementary requirements

### 5a. Exchange of data :

Define the data elements for: security and safety related matters (pre-arrival) and simplified procedures

Define the message structure and the rules for the data exchange (is NCTS infrastructure adequate for the complexity of the task??)

### 5b.Databases

Establish and maintain a central database or inter-linked national databases on risk management<sup>2</sup>

.Establish and maintain a central database or inter-linked national databases of trade identification number to provide for a system that handles the authentication of declarations and documents.

Establish and maintain a central database or inter-linked national databases of authorised economic operators, so that the customs office of entry can check whether the declarant is authorised to use the simplified declaration or local clearance procedure, or a customs procedure requiring an authorisation (e.g. inward processing), or is considered to be a low risk with regard to safety and security checks,

### 5c. Link with existing systems

Ensure a seamless flow of data between AIS, AES, NCTS and ECS, in order to achieve TARIC, tariff quotas and other customs-related systems and data bases.

## 6. Next steps

Once agreement has been reached on the scope of the AIS and the data elements need for the exchange it will be necessary to develop a functional and technical specifications (FTSS)

This project is being developed in the "e-customs" project group, (sub-group on AIS including Sweden, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Lithuania, Finland, Malta and shortly Austria) operating under C 2007 consisting of experts from volunteering MS and traders.

The group will present its first findings on the MASP seminar April 6-8, 2005 in Poland.

**Annex:** TAXUD /3420/2004 working Document on centralized clearance