

of simplification of numerous time-consuming transactions with the help of computers, electronic application of declarations, and more.

It is worth mentioning that the Republic of Belarus is evolving in terms of digitalization, but still the country lags behind the main leaders in some aspects. Digitalization and the development of information and communication technologies in the country will allow the Republic of Belarus to reach a qualitatively new level in international trade in general and to develop customs services in particular.

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«The Peculiarities of Customs Activities During the World Pandemic Situation COVID-19»

The COVID-19 pandemic situation has affected many areas of economy in most countries. During this period, the activities of customs authorities of all Member States of the Eurasian Economic Union (hereinafter referred to as the EAEU) have acquired maximum degree of digitalization. The electronic declaration and control over the compliance with existing prohibitions and restrictions, including technical regulation measures during the epidemic situation, have played an important role.

According to the Article 80 of the Customs Code of the EAEU: the documents and (or) information required for the performance of customs operations may not be necessarily provided to the customs authority if such information and (or) documents can be obtained individually by customs bodies themselves, using their own information systems of state bodies (organizations) of the EAEU Member States within the framework of information interaction.

By the end of 2018, a frame for sending a request had been created in order to obtain information from the Unified Register for document assessment by authorized bodies of the Republic of Belarus, and another frame for receiving a response to a request sent by customs authorities had been worked out too.

The process of sending a request and receiving the necessary information from the authorized body – the Belarusian State Institute for Standardization and Certification – is in real time and takes no more than 30 seconds.

In the informational system of customs authorities, an official when performing customs operations on the basis of the document assessment procedure sends a request. When there is a

response from the authorized body, a message is generated in the informational system of customs authorities. An official of the customs authorities checks the information issued in the declaration with the information provided from the Unified Register upon the request, as well as the validity period and the status of the conformity assessment documents. If all documents and all the information provided are correct and clear, the customs official releases the goods in accordance with the declared customs procedure.

If there is an absence of some information about the documents to conform its validity in the electronic form, or if incomplete information is received, or the declarant fails to submit the document for conformation in paper when submitting the declaration, a customs official requests the document on conformity assessment in accordance with the paragraph 1 of the Article 325 of the Customs of the EAEU Code.

When submitting a document for conformity assessment while declaring goods, or when submitting a document at the request of the customs authority, the information declared and specified in the document on conformity assessment is checked, and if no discrepancy is found and the subject to the conditions for the release of goods is clear, a customs official releases those goods in accordance with the customs procedure.

If, based on the results of the customs control procedure, the declarant provides an incorrect number of the documents assessed, a customs official, on the basis of the paragraph 2 of the Article 112 of the EAEU Customs Code, will ask the declarant to make changes (additions) to the information declared. If the requested documents are not submitted within the time period established by the paragraph 2 of the Article 325 of the Customs Code of the EAEU (The requested documents must be submitted by the declarant within 4 hours before the expiration period), or in case when the submitted documents do not confirm with the compliance of the declared goods due to technical regulation measures, a customs official refuses to release the goods.

The above mechanism for sending a request and for obtaining information on the conformity assessment from the Unified Register has shown its effectiveness during the epidemiological situation. It has had a positive effect on the work of customs authorities, protecting customs officials from direct contact with declarants.

In order to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection, most countries have introduced a ban on the movement of individuals across the State borders. This has affected the individuals who used to temporarily import vehicles for personal use on the territory of the EAEU, as well as business entities which used to place vehicles under the customs procedure for temporary import. In this regard, the following documents have been adopted: the Decision of the EEC Council

dated May 29, 2020 No. 45¹ “On Amendments To the Decision No. 109 Dated December 20, 2017”; the Decision of the EEC Council dated April 27, 2020 No. 55² “On Some Issues Of Extending the Validity Period Of the Customs Procedure For Temporary Import (Admission)”. A number of documents have increased with time to the following ones:

1) The deadline for temporary stay on the territory of the EAEU and the usage of goods in accordance with the customs procedure for temporary import (admission) without paying import customs duties and taxes.

2) The period established by the paragraph 4 of the Article 221 of the Customs Code of the EAEU (which is 1 month), during which the actions and the effect of the customs procedure for temporary import (admission) may be extended.

The Decisions of the EEC Council and decrees of the Government of the Republic of Belarus have been adopted due to the pandemic situation and they are of great importance:

1. Temporary ban on the movement of certain goods (personal protective equipment, protective liquids and disinfectants, medical products, as well as a number of other materials);

The Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 41³ “On Amendments To the Decision Of the Board Of the Eurasian Economic Commission” and No. 30 “On Non-Tariff Regulation Measures”.

2. The establishment of restrictions and requirements for the transit of goods and vehicles;

A number of restrictions and requirements have been established for drivers performing transit transportation on the territory of the Republic of Belarus. According to the subparagraph 1.3, the paragraph 1 of the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated March 25, 2020 No. 171⁴ “On the Measures To Prevent the Spread Of the Infection Caused By COVID-19”, international road transport is obliged to leave the territory of the Republic of Belarus along the shortest route no later than the day following the day of the entry on its territory. Exceptions are legal when there is an impossibility to comply with the terms due to the need to obtain a special permission for the transit of large and heavy vehicles on the territory of a foreign country, or due to the need to obtain a special permission for the carriage of dangerous goods, or due to the accident (breakdown) of a vehicle, as well as due to unloading, reloading (transshipment) of the cargo, the replacement of a vehicle, as long as it is provided by the terms of the road transport contract and is indicated in documents.

¹ http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/tam_sotr/departament/KlassPoTNVED_TS/Pages/solutions.aspx

² <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/Lists/Decisions/AllItems.aspx>

³ <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/Lists/Decisions/AllItems.aspx>

⁴ <http://www.government.by/upload/docs/file10035c84c92d9a81.PDF>

3. The freedom from some payments of import duties or provisions of benefits in payment;

By the Decision of the EEC Council, dated March 16, 2020 No. 21¹ “On Amending Certain Decisions Of the Customs Union Commission and On Approving the List Of Goods Imported To the Customs Territory Of the Eurasian Economic Union In Order To Implement Measures By Member States Of the Eurasian Economic Union To Prevent the Spread Of Coronavirus” provides some freedoms from customs duties on some goods. This decision affects such goods as personal protective equipment, disinfectants, diagnostic reagents, certain types of equipment and materials. Many countries have taken measures to create a “green corridor” for the import of the goods necessary to prevent and eliminate the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

4. The ban to export masks;

By the Decision of the EEC Council No. 64² dated 05.12.2020, the export of medical masks outside the Union by the country which is the EAEU Member is allowed only with the permission of the authorized body from whose territory such goods are originated. In the Republic of Belarus this is the Ministry of Health. The export of masks which do not originate from the territory of the EAEU Member States is prohibited.

In order to simplify the procedure for performing customs operations, the Draft Law “On Customs Regulations In the Republic of Belarus” was adopted on 02.10.2020. The project has a number of innovations related to customs control procedure. The bill provides the possibility not to place exported goods at customs control zones, that is, to register export without actual placement of the goods for export procedure and without showing them to the customs authorities. Prior, those provisions used to be applied by customs authorities in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. The obligations of the interested parties to obtain the permission from the customs authorities to remove the imposed customs seals or seals after the completion of the customs procedure of transit has been eliminated, as well as the obligation to notify customs authorities and to obtain permission from them to move between separate sections of free economic zones. The obligation to notify the customs authorities and to obtain permissions for shipping goods under the appropriate customs procedure between individual members of free customs zones of the residents of the free economic zone has been eliminated too. The possibility has been established for an individual to pay customs payments to the budget in foreign currency in relation to goods for personal usage.

¹ <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/Lists/Decisions/AllItems.aspx>

² <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/Lists/Decisions/AllItems.aspx>

The key area of activity of the customs authorities is the introduction of a tracking (monitoring) system for transit traffic using electronic sealing devices (navigation seals). The use of modern satellite navigation seals allows to remove unnecessary customs procedures and other inspections, and to reduce the travel time by 4-5 days. The use of such tools in customs procedures makes it possible to simplify and accelerate the performance of necessary operations in relation to goods transported in a foreign trade, thereby making the interaction between subjects of foreign economic activity and customs authorities more convenient and effective. All these measures are designed to simplify customs operations and to reduce unnecessary contacts between subjects of foreign economic activity and customs officials. Thus, optimizing the possibility of carrying out a foreign economic activity under new conditions.

International cooperation is a special type of activity of customs authorities, the main tasks of which is the participation in a number of annual planned and unscheduled events aimed at signing international treaties, as well as the adoption of agreements. As the coronavirus infection is still spreading, many countries have introduced lockdown policies. As a result of the adoption of these measures, the format for holding these meetings has become online, using the platforms ZOOM, KUDO, and others. The events are held throughout the country to make the most significant and important decisions. Thus, we can conclude that during the pandemic situation, promoting the use of information technologies for interaction is a priority area for building up international cooperation.

Summing up, we want to note that today customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus are doing an excellent job while performing the tasks set. They fulfill their duties to ensure the economic security of the country during the spread of the infection. Favorable conditions are being created for the protection and the secure of the entire Eurasian Economic Space.

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«Labeling of goods as an effective method of countering the illegal trafficking of industrial products»

Research Field:

Customs and Business: Cooperation Challenges

The current state of development of market economic relations, the intensive development of international trade implies freedom of choice of goods based on access to