

optimizing customs control is not a primary goal, but a way to achieve the main goal - the safety of life and health of the country's citizens.

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«The ethical side of the activities of customs officials»

Research Field:

Morality in international trade: ethics in Business and Customs

Currently, service in customs authorities is inseparable from such concepts as morality, ethics, integrity. Issues related to ethics and behavior are considered one of the dominant areas of activity of public servants, which has received great attention in recent years. The ethics of public servants refers to a system of values and rules governing the relationship that arises during the implementation of public service. This can be a relationship between leaders and subordinates, colleagues in the process of their joint activities, between public servants and citizens contacting them.

The activity of the customs authorities is one of those that is directly related to the observance of moral and ethical norms, since it involves direct daily communication with a large number of individuals crossing the customs border, as well as with participants of foreign economic activity. The interaction of these persons is carried out on various issues related, for example, to the procedure for filling out customs declarations, to the procedure for moving different categories of goods across the customs border, to the classification of goods, to clarify customs legislation, as well as on many other aspects that require the direct participation of customs authorities. In any communication, there is often a disagreement between customs officials and those who are unwilling to accept the law and who are often quite aggressive in asserting their position.

Thus, the business communication skills aimed at explaining and complying with the rules of the current legislation, in the activities of customs officers, especially in such difficult situations, is inherent for employees who come into direct contact as colleagues, and with other faces. Also important is the principled, legitimate conduct of employees, their compliance with ethical norms and rules in the performance of their duties.

It is important that the employees of state institutions meet the requirements of society, since their main task is to serve the public interest of citizens.

Public officers have a number of responsibilities. Some of them are defined by law, and some - by standards of ethics and morality.

Customs officers are representatives of state bodies whose activities are restricted and subject to the strict rules of numerous legislative acts. Regulations governing the conduct of staff members in the performance of their official duties, regardless of their position, are no exception. Legislation of this nature, requiring professional subordination, occupies an important place among other normative acts, ensuring rational and lawful disposal of power.

For example, the World Customs Organization has developed a Model Code of Ethics and Conduct to provide public confidence that Customs authorities are obliged to demonstrate high ethical standards. Accordingly, the public has a right to expect that the conduct of customs officials will be impartial, professional, honest and, above all, ethical. Since, in the eyes of the public, public servants are the embodiment of the state, it is important to enhance their public image.

In the Republic of Belarus, the regulation of the ethical principles of customs officers is carried out by the Code of Honor of a customs official, approved by a decision of the Board of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus of 25 July 2013. The requirements laid down by the Code include fair and just treatment of others, conscientious performance of duties, building relationships based on responsibility, loyalty, equality, mutual respect, tolerance, as well as restraint and balance in the face of provocations, insults, and contradictions¹.

To ensure compliance with these requirements, the Code establishes that in case of their violation the guilty person will be held liable. Thus, in accordance with Article 20 «Responsibility of customs bodies and their officials» of the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On customs regulation in the Republic of Belarus», officials may incur disciplinary, administrative or criminal liability.

Codes of ethics aim to establish high moral guidelines, the purpose of which is to make a person feel proud to embody all the principles listed in the code.

However, the existence of an ethical code of a civil servant cannot be an exceptional tool for the formation of a highly moral model of behavior. It is necessary to pay tribute to the training of public servants in professional ethics. For example, in the case of corruption, studies conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development indicate that the

¹ Code of Honor of a customs official [Electronic resource]: Official site of the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus - Access mode: <https://www.customs.gov.by/>. - Date of access: 10.04.2022.

level of corruption is lower in countries where the state has established a system of public ethics training, unlike countries with high levels of corruption¹.

In order to develop the above-mentioned behavior patterns among officials, at least one state body should be identified, which will be responsible for training professional ethics, conducting educational work aimed at improving the moral qualities of employees. Such a function could be assigned, for example, to the public service or to anti-corruption bodies. In addition, it is important to introduce ethics into the day-to-day management system in public institutions, and in order to facilitate this, it is necessary to interact with the leadership of customs authorities.

Among the main directions of educational work carried out with employees, it is possible to highlight the active involvement of officials in socio-legal and socio-cultural activities, holding regular meetings aimed at the prevention of offenses.

The work is organized both within the team and individually with each person. The effectiveness of individual work, namely the formation of the qualities necessary for the successful and conscientious performance of official duties in the trained persons, directly depends on the skills and competence of the management staff to which it is carried out.

In turn, personnel and representatives of the ideological vertical carry out individual educational work with employees who have committed breaches of discipline (prone to violations), as well as preventive educational work with employees who commit omissions in service, serve a short period of time or react painfully to comments of superiors. At the same time, the management staff of the customs authorities must demonstrate ethical behavior by personal example, by their practical actions, comply with established norms, be impartial and fair in their professional activities². After all, it is the lack of moral qualities among employees that mainly contributes to disciplinary misconduct, corruption and abuse of their official duties, which in turn leads to a lack of public trust in government institutions.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that the legal acts regulating the activities of persons serving in customs authorities help to maintain their official morality. These norms of law may be called criteria for assessing a person's professional suitability for public service. This is also supported by the educational work that is carried out within each customs authority.

¹ Ethical training for public officials [Electronic resource]: - Access mode: <http://www.aalep.eu/ethics-training-public-officials> - Date of access: 13.04.2022.

² Денисов, И.В. Организация индивидуальной воспитательной работы / И.В. Денисов // Опорный конспект по курсу: Воспитательная и идеологическая работа в таможенных органах Республики Беларусь – 2015. – С.49.

Therefore, in order to constantly maintain a high moral and ethical level of employees, and thereby decent service for persons crossing the customs border, it is necessary to:

- develop and improve the legal regulation of ethical aspects of activities in customs authorities;
- consider the possibility of creating a state body that would be responsible for the moral training of employees before they enter the service, as well as in the process of its implementation;
- incorporate ethics into day-to-day management in the customs administration;
- carry out more active and purposeful educational work with officials, develop new methods and directions of its organization and realization.

Thus, the ethical side of the activities of customs officials, like other aspects of activities, is legally regulated, and clearly builds the boundaries of the moral responsibility of customs officers in relation to all entities with which they have to interact, thereby increasing the image and creating confidence in the eyes of the public. Customs officials need to constantly assess their actions for compliance with their permissible standards of morality and ethics, as well as analyze the situation from a moral point of view. Honesty, fairness, integrity should become one of the main characteristics of the moral appearance of a Customs official.

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«Technical means of detecting banknote security elements »

Research Field:

Modern technical means as a basis of the effective border management

In the modern realities of the intensification of international economic relations, the movement of funds across the customs border is constantly increasing. To ensure the national security of the state, in particular economic one's, in the field of combating the illegal movement of counterfeit currency across the customs border, the diagnostics of banknotes is becoming increasingly important. The relevance of this problem is that reliable control of the authenticity of the currency is impossible without the use of constantly improving special technical means, as well as developing methods for counterfeiting banknotes. Otherwise, banknote diagnostics would be less effective.