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### **ASSIGNING CERTAIN FUNCTIONS OF SANITARY AND QUARANTINE CONTROL TO THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES**

*Research Field:  
Two border services*

This article is devoted to the assignment of certain functions of sanitary quarantine control to customs authorities: in particular, the procedure for carrying out sanitary quarantine control at checkpoints.

Sanitary quarantine control at checkpoints is carried out in relation to controlled goods, vehicles, persons upon arrival and departure. These measures are carried out in connection with the risk of emergencies in the field of sanitary and epidemiological welfare of the population: the importation of infectious and parasitic diseases into the country, as well as potentially dangerous substances and products for human health.

The most important sanitary and anti-epidemic measure for the sanitary protection of the territory of the republic, aimed at preventing the import and spread of dangerous infectious and mass non-communicable diseases (poisoning), potentially dangerous to human health goods (products, cargoes), is sanitary quarantine control, which is organized in the Republic of Belarus.

It should be noted that various types of control are carried out at checkpoints across the State Border of the Republic of Belarus: border, customs, sanitary quarantine, veterinary and phytosanitary.

Sanitary quarantine control at the customs border of the Eurasian Economic Union (hereinafter referred to as the EAEU) at checkpoints is carried out by officials of sanitary quarantine points in three directions: supervision of individuals, vehicles, controlled goods (cargoes).

In their work, specialists are guided by documents forming the legal framework of the EAEU in the field of sanitary measures and sanitary and epidemiological legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Since January 1, 2014. at checkpoints, customs officials are entrusted with the functions of carrying out documentary sanitary and quarantine control over goods (cargoes), and border guard officers are assigned the functions of sanitary and quarantine control over individuals

(visual inspection). As a result of this coordination, the total time spent by vehicles at checkpoints has been reduced by an average of more than 15%.

Officials of sanitary quarantine points, when carrying out sanitary quarantine control, ensure the inspection (inspection) of individuals, vehicles and controlled goods upon arrival (departure) to (from) the territory of the EAEU in the presence of a risk of emergency situations in the field of sanitary and epidemiological welfare of the population:

- arrival of a vehicle from countries with disease-infected areas and from countries with areas of chemical and radiation accidents (in accordance with the lists of countries according to the World Health Organization (hereinafter - WHO));
- failure to provide, in accordance with the established procedure, preliminary information on the absence on board an air or sea (river) vessel of persons with suspected illness requiring measures for sanitary protection of the territory;
- the presence on the vehicle of persons who arrived on an international flight from countries with disease-infected areas, or arrived from such countries within the incubation period;
- international mail with compromised integrity that came from countries with infected areas or from epidemic zones;
- establishment of the fact of movement of a vehicle, controlled goods with an increased radiation background;
- receipt of information on the arrival of controlled goods that do not comply with Uniform Sanitary Requirements.

In relation to individuals and vehicles, in order to prevent the import and spread of dangerous infectious and mass non-communicable diseases (poisoning), a set of measures is carried out: a survey (questionnaire) of crew members who arrived at checkpoints, employees of train and locomotive crews, motor transport drivers and passengers on their health status; according to epidemiological indications and if there are complaints - thermometry of crew members, employees of locomotive crews, drivers of vehicles and passengers; in the presence of complaints about the state of health - organization of a medical examination; sanitary inspection of the vehicle (food supply, water supply systems, collection and disposal systems of all types of waste), as well as inspection for the presence of carriers and vectors of infection (insects, rodents or traces of their stay).

If there is a patient(s) or persons with suspected illness on the vehicle, aircraft are sent to a sanitary parking lot, trains to a sanitary railway dead end (track), vehicles to a sanitary site for sanitary and anti-epidemic measures.

Sanitary and anti-epidemic measures in relation to patients with diseases (or suspected of diseases) begin immediately and are carried out in accordance with the requirements of International Health Regulations and sanitary and epidemiological legislation of the Republic of Belarus. The movement of controlled goods included in the Unified List of Goods is possible only at checkpoints where state sanitary and quarantine control is carried out.

Sanitary quarantine control of controlled goods includes:<sup>1</sup>

- control of documents confirming the safety of products (goods) and their compliance with transport (transportation) and (or) commercial documents;
- inspection, organization of sampling of controlled goods included in section II of the Unified List of Goods subject to sanitary and epidemiological supervision (control);
- participation (at the request of customs authorities) in the verification of transport (transportation) and (or) commercial documents,
- inspection, organization of sampling (sampling) for the evaluation of controlled goods included in the Unified List of Goods.

In case of complication of the sanitary and epidemiological situation, according to the decree of the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Belarus, any vehicles and goods may be subjected to sanitary quarantine control, as well as temporary restrictive measures may be applied. When such measures are introduced by one of the EAEU member States, sanitary and anti-epidemic measures are carried out to ensure an appropriate level of protection for the state that has decided to introduce such measures.

The EAEU member States have the right to introduce temporary sanitary measures and carry out sanitary and anti—epidemic measures if:

- the sanitary and epidemiological situation has worsened in the territory of the member State;
- Information has been received from international organizations, member States or third countries on the applied sanitary measures and (or) the deterioration of the sanitary and epidemiological situation;
- the scientific justification for the application of sanitary measures is insufficient or it cannot be presented in the required time;
- products (goods) controlled by the state sanitary and epidemiological supervision (control) that do not comply with the unified sanitary requirements or technical regulations of the EAEU have been identified.

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<sup>1</sup> Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 524 on November 28, 2013 "On some issues of sanitary and quarantine control at checkpoints across the State Border of the Republic of Belarus" - Novopolotsk, 2024

An example of temporary sanitary measures is the resolution of the chief State sanitary doctor of the Republic of Belarus dated 08.01.2018 No. 1 "On the prohibition of importation without conducting a state sanitary and hygienic examination of each batch of vegetable, carbohydrate—fat and protein-fat ("cheese-like") products of foreign production".<sup>1</sup>

Upon receipt of official information from the authorized bodies of the Parties on the introduction of temporary restrictive measures against goods that do not meet the mandatory requirements of sanitary and epidemiological legislation, this product is prohibited from being imported into the territory of the party/parties that applied the temporary restrictive measure by affixing a stamp "Import prohibited" in the relevant documents.

Thus, due to the ongoing work on sanitary protection of the territory, including sanitary quarantine control at checkpoints across the customs border of the EAEU, in recent years, cases of importation into the Republic of Belarus of dangerous infectious diseases of international importance (plague, cholera, yellow fever, pandemic influenza, hemorrhagic fevers, etc.) have not been allowed, as well as dangerous goods (cargoes) that can lead to emergencies in the field of public health.

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## **THE MEANS TO IMPROVE THE PROCEDURE OF CUSTOMS TRANSIT**

*Research Field:  
Innovative Technologies in International Trade.*

In accordance with the paragraph 3 of the Article 104 on the Customs Code of the EAEU, customs declaration is conducted in electronic form. The exceptions include the placement of goods under the customs procedure of customs transit. The reason for this decision is the possible absence of the electronic digital signature recognized by the customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus.

This problem can be solved if a foreign carrier signs a contract with the customs representative who is registered in the Republic of Belarus, who is also included in the relevant register and is recognized by EDS (electronic digital signature). This practice is actively used by

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<sup>1</sup> The organization's notice. Sanitary control during the import of goods // [Electronic resource]// — Access mode: <https://ilex.by/pamyatka-organizatsii-sanitarnyj-kontrol-pri-importe-tovarov/> — The access date is 04.05.2024.