

## EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM OF LEBANON

The legal basis for enforcing the Export control system is given by the new customs law that went into effect on April 23 , 2001 , in combination with other national legislations on import and export of arms , military equipment , and dangerous goods.

Licenses are issued by the Ministry of Economy after prior consent of the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Competent authorities involved in the export control system are:

- Customs Administration
- Security Agencies
- Ministry of Defense
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Internal affairs
- Industrial Research Institute
- Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission(LAEC).

The Lebanese Government and Customs Administration are doing their best within their resources to enhance control over their exports.

The application of export control should be only to the extent needed to ensure achievement of its goals. So customs procedures should be implemented in the light of the principles of trade facilitation without violating the efficient customs control. The Lebanese Customs Law in its article 4 emphasizes that customs and parties concerned shall implement all customs procedures subject to the principles of streaming publicity, transparency and common interests, thus clearing goods according to internationally applicable procedures and to the provisions of the Kyoto Agreement, and allowing the direct delivery of imports or permitting the shipment of exports by inspection of goods in a rapid, simplified and selective manner.

Using risk management techniques, 10 % of all import declaration are subject to physical inspection by customs. However, all export declarations are subject to security checks by specialized agencies at all ports.

Strengthening risk management should be conducted by using intelligence analysis to collect information over import/export activities which are strongly suspected of violating the prohibition and restriction by using profiling and targeting methods against the importer, exporter ,commodity and supplier , then the address of the recipient is set out in the intelligence result note.

This conduct needs interaction with international and foreign countries in the area of export control for the purpose of strengthening international security and stability, in particular by preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery .

#### Transshipment and Risk Management :

Article 75 paragraph B of the Lebanese Customs Law (4461 April 2001) stated : “ A declaration containing all merchandise or containers intended to be unloaded in the Lebanese ports to be transshipped by sea from the same port, provided that it contains the number of containers and their gross weights. “

In other words , transshipments are not within the scope of export control and therefore , a proportionate measure is needed to assure that the flow of trade would not be affected while transshipment could be controlled .

Notice: 400.000 containers were transshipped from the Beirut Sea Port during 2008.

Starting 2007, a special unit within the Lebanese Customs Administration is scanning via X-ray machine and these techniques shall be also applicable to all containers exported from Lebanon to the countries that adhere to mutual administrative protocols.

During 2008 , the Lebanese Customs Administration signed an agreement with the U . S Energy Department to prevent the illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials . The convention provides for the exchange of information and the training of customs officers in

the field of detection of such substances in the goods imported and exported , in order to maintain public health , and environmental protection .

The customs also signed an agreement with the Ministry of Finance in the Federal Republic of Germany by which they provided us with cars and scanning devices .

Also signed was a cooperation agreement with the Canadian Ministry of Foreign and International Affairs by which they provided our marine customs with four equipped speed boats and the training of our officers to use them .

The European Union provided us with equipment to detect radio- active materials, and in cooperation with the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) through the Lebanese Atomic Energy commission (LAEC) , it helped the Lebanese customs to send their staff abroad for training to use these devices.

The year 2008 also saw the establishment of an infrastructure for the installation of machines and radio-active and nuclear materials detection devices , and radiation portal monitors for warning and detecting at the Masnaa borderland entry .

Prior to that, the Lebanese Customs had signed a cooperation protocol with the German authorities for provision of training and security equipment to enhance the control over Lebanese border points , that was after the July 2006 war and this protocol was in support of the UN security council resolution 1701 for banning unauthorized entry of weapons into Lebanon .

The Lebanese Customs benefited from the E.U project for “ strengthening the national infrastructure related to Lebanese trade and border control “ . Radiation portal monitors are on their way to be installed at all other land borders and sea ports.

The Beirut sea port and Beirut Rafic Hariri international Airport are now equipped with X – rays scanners for containers and cargo inspection and also for passengers and luggage inspection.

The Lebanese Customs programmed plan of action for the next three years provides a significant interest for persons dealing with the customs:

1. The application of the new Najem System Asycoda World in all customs offices.
2. The expansion and updating of the customs website on the internet.
3. Making the Lebanese Customs a paperless administration starting from the year 2010 .
4. Adopting of informatics and electronic communications in the management of all documents imposed by the various ministries and official bodies in the clearance of goods in all customs situations.
5. Adoption of informatics for the management of licenses and permits in different import and export transactions.
6. Adoption of informatics in different conditions of customs duty deferral statuses, particularly in terms of follow up and payment.
7. Working to obtain the necessary legislation for the acceptance of electronic signature and electronic payment.
8. Enriching the statistics of foreign trade with economical analysis and comments and presenting them to public use.

After all , The Lebanese Customs Administration will continue focusing on high-tech and X-ray scanning to ensure the security of its exports to other countries . The Lebanese Government will endeavor to acquire these equipment from the International Donor Community , or bilaterally to implement similar measures to ensure the security of goods import to Lebanon .

Lebanon is participating in this conference hoping that it will help to achieve the purpose of strengthening international security and stability , preventing in particular the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.