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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION
Coordination and programmes
Information technology

INFORMATION SHEET ON I.T. PROJECTS

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PROJECT ECS (Export Control System)	
SUMMARY The Export Control System will allow, in electronic form, the exchange of information from the office of exportation to the office of exit and vice-versa.	
LEGAL BASIS	
General	Regulation EC 2913/1992 establishing the Community Custom Code Regulation EC 648/2005 (security amendments to the Community Custom Code)
Mandatory use of I.T.	None for ECS phase 1. Yes for ECS phase 2 (by 30/06/2009).
DESCRIPTION During the Customs 2002 seminar in Vuokatti (December 2002) the Commission, the EU-Member States and the Candidate Countries proposed to set up an Export Control Pilot Project (EPP). This first stage of the Automated Exportation System has since been titled the Export Control System (ECS). The Export Control System will allow, in electronic form, the exchange of information from the office of exportation to the office of exit and vice-versa. The office of export can then send this information to inform the economic operator and other government services that the goods have left the customs territory. The ECS will also cater for various security initiatives, first and foremost the United States CSI initiative. In order to progress quickly and work on the basis of a well-proven and successful project, the ECS will be based on the NCTS system. Working on the basis of NCTS also allows for a solution that can quickly respond to the security concerns being expressed. Member states have expressed the desire to maximise the use of NCTS, so as to protect their IT-investments. The ECS will be one of the first implementations of the E-Customs project and at the same time the second customs procedure after the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS), for which a Europe-wide IT-solution is applicable. All efforts and attempts to lay down the groundwork for the implementation of the ECS are part of a complete strategy from an electronic customs perspective. The ECS is the first step of the overall Automated Export System (AES). The ECS project will develop only a part of the AES. This ECS part will be developed by the Member States and the Commission. Once the first step is completed successfully, it is intended to proceed to the development of the other stages.	
STATUS - In 2003, the User Requirements were created and agreed between the Pilot Member States. Also the project organisation and necessary structures have been put in place. The contractual set up has been defined in the first part of 2004: amended NCTS contracts are used in the ECS project. - During 2004, focus has been on the development of the functional and technical specifications for the IT system. The functional & technical specifications have been produced and reviewed by the Member States. - In 2005 applications' specifications have been produced; software development has started. Regulation (EC) No 648/2005 of the European Parliament and the Council of 13/04/2005 –amending the Community Customs Code– was adopted on 23/02/2005 and was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJ L117) on 04/05/2005. This legal framework for ECS came into force on 11/05/2005. - The Implementing Provisions for Regulation (EC) No 648/2005 have been voted on 23/10/2006 and came into force on 26/12/2006. A proposal for the Phasing of ECS has been approved by the CPG-D on 06/07/2005 and amended subsequently (presented to CPG-D on 11/10/2006, written approval procedure currently ongoing). Phase 1 will be without the Security Data Elements and Phase 2 with the Security Data Elements implemented.	

ECN+

The purpose of the ECN+ application is:

- to receive messages from the MSs own National Export System (NES), and then to manage the international exchange of information about export movements among the NESs of the involved MSs;
- to handle the national communication between a MS ECN+ system and its own NES system;
- to provide a manual input of data when involved MS's NES is unavailable or it does not own a NES.

The ECN+ application has been available since July 2006.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The objective of ECS phase 2 is to provide for the electronic handling of exit summary declarations under the security amendment and will, inter alia, require additional information to be included in export and re-export declarations, for safety and security purposes. The legal basis is Regulation (EC) No 648/2005 "security amendment" and Articles 842a to 842e as well as Annex 30 A of the CCIP.

It builds upon and keeps the functions of ECS Phase 1. A coherent transitional period for transition from one phase to the next will be granted.

The Commission proposes a one year period to join the system, with a start on 1 July 2008 and a deadline on 30 June 2009. The proposal is currently under discussion at ECG level.

This time window will allow Member States to choose and plan individually their start date of Phase 2 operations. This approach is technically more complex than a "big-bang" approach, as the national systems will have to support both Phase 1 and Phase 2 messages during the deployment window, but it will also allow a gradual migration of traders to submit declarations with security data until the legal deadline is reached.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Technical infrastructure:

Comments:

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