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

INFORMATION SHEET ON I.T. PROJECTS
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PROJECT
Specimen Management System (SMS)

SUMMARY

The Commission provides the Member States and other co-operating countries with the specimens of stamps, seals and certificates in the context of several administrative co-operation procedures. With these they can perform probes of shipments and documents.

The issuing bodies of the stamps, seals and certificates in the various countries must provide the Commission with the specimen information. The Commission is responsible for the dissemination of it.

LEGAL BASIS

General	Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 of 2 July 1993
	Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992
	Council Regulation (EC) No 32/2000 of 17 December 1999
	Convention on Common Transit of 20 May 1987
	Commission Regulation (EC) No 2388/2000 of 13 October 2000 amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
Mandatory use of I.T.	none

DESCRIPTION

Contents:
− Specimen information such as name, image, validity period, etc
− Issuing body information
− National administration information
− Incident reports
− Specimen revocations

Process:
− Issuing bodies send their data on paper; this is captured and validated at TAXUD
− Commission staff publish the information in the system
− Commission staff disseminate it to the national administration
− Inquiries can be performed on the information according to various criteria, both by the Commission staff and the National Administration

STATUS

The Specimen Management System is divided in 4 domains:
- SMS-Origin (successor of the TCO system): in production since November 2003
- SMS-Transit (successor of the TCT system): in production since May 2004
- SMS-Quota has been in production since April 2004
- SMS-Combined Nomenclature has been in production since April 2004
- No issues reported during enlargement in May 2004
- Enhancements in 2004: standard queries to display overall history of changes, history of an individual specimen, more specific notification message
- Migration to new application platform within the Data Center (4Q 2004)
-SMS-AGRIPRO (For DG AGRI) : In production since 1.01.2007
-SMS-EXPORT : In production since 1.1.2007

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Corrective maintenance
- No functional evolution planned

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Technical infrastructure:
- Sun Solaris OS
- BEA WebLogic application server 8
- Oracle 9 database system, UTF8 as character encoding scheme
- CCN/CSI network between the Commission and the National Administrations
- Web browser