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

INFORMATION SHEET ON I.T. PROJECTS
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PROJECT
SEED (System of Exchange of Excise Data)

SUMMARY
Member State Administrations exchange registers of authorised warehouse keepers and registered traders, and premises authorised as tax warehouses. The information is exchanged by means of a file (SEED file) that allows a predefined file specification. The creation of a SEED file is the responsibility of the Member State Administration. Every administration uses its own application to create this file, making sure that the file produced follows the predefined SEED file specification.

LEGAL BASIS	
General	Council Directive 92/12/EEC of 25 February 1992 on the general arrangements for products subject to excise duty and on the holding, movement and monitoring of such products (OJ L 76, 23.3.1992, p. 1) – Article 15a
Mandatory use of I.T.	Council Regulation (EC) No 2073/2004 of 16 November 2004 on administrative co-operation in the field of excise duties (OJ L 359, 04/12/2004 P. 0001 – 0010) – Article 22

DESCRIPTION
The Commission (DG TAXUD) provides two applications:

a) The SEED parser, to allow an administration to verify a SEED file before sending it out and also to verify a file received from another administration

b) The W*inseed* application to encrypt and compress a SEED file in order to prepare it for sending.
The Commission (OLAF) provides AFIS Mail which is used to send the SEED files from one administration to the others.

Taking into account the various technical, procedural, and operational issues encountered in the current SEED system, and considering the entry into operation of the EMCS in 2008, the Commission planned to specify, develop, operate and support an update of the current SEED system called SEED v.0. This system will provide the following central services:

- Consolidation by the Commission of the SEED files sent by all countries in a central repository, hosted and operated by the Commission on a restricted and secured website;
- Consultation by the MSAs of the SEED central repository via several possible interfaces: Web on-line consultation of the data, extraction of the content of the SEED repository on request, or automatic dissemination of the content of the SEED repository whenever the data from any of the Member States has been updated;
- SEED v.0 will include information on Excise Offices in all Member States, the so-called Excise Office List (EOL), which will be uploaded and consulted by the MSAs in the Customs Office List (COL);
- Economic Operators will have limited access to the information in SEED v.0, accessible via the public Europa website of the Commission (the so called "SEED on Europa") regarding simple verification queries of certain information regarding Economic Operators (e g the Excise Numbers);

STATUS
- SEED is operational in the 25 Member State Administrations. 2005 was devoted to the maintenance and support of the applications related to the current SEED and enforcement of its use.

- The SEED v.0 system specifications have been drafted, reviewed by the Commission in early 2005, reviewed by the Member States and approved by the Excise Committee in 4Q 2005. Central development was completed by the end of 2005 and the conformance testing campaign has been designed for tests to start in early 2006.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Conformance tests for SEED v.0 will be performed in early 2006 with the objective of entry into operation of SEED v.0 in 1/4/2006.

- The planned developments are part of the EMCS Phase 0. Refer to the EMCS project sheet.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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