Action 3 of the Customs Laboratories European Network

Networking on quality

A Common Quality Policy

Although quality requirements are the same for all the Member States’ Customs Laboratories, their implementation may vary according to each Customs Laboratory and its own specific quality system. The first aim of Action 3 is to work towards the development of a Common Quality Policy for all Customs Laboratories to ensure uniform interpretation of the new standards and to establish the basis for mutual acceptability of test data without the need for further re-testing of products and articles when they are traded internationally.

The constant effort made by the Customs Laboratories to improve and guarantee quality is seen in the increasing number of methods of analysis accredited according to ISO 17025.

Activities carried out under Action 3 Actions Objectives

<table>
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<th>Actions</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Group on Sampling</td>
<td>Development and maintenance of <strong>Samancta</strong>, the <em>Sampling Manual for Customs and Tax Authorities</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Samancta</td>
<td>Online tool providing solutions related to sampling and sample manipulations, also used for training purposes. Translated into all European Union languages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samancta Training</td>
<td>Presentation of Samancta to the Customs Authorities and practical training on sampling of various goods</td>
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27-30 September 2016, Budapest, Hungary, 26 participants
• 2-4 October 2018, Tirana, Albania, 23 participants

**Samancta Workshop**
Presentation of Samancta to the Customs Authorities
14-15 November 2013, Prague, Czech Republic, 67 participants

**Project Group on**
**Compliance assessment,**
**use of precision data and statistics**
Enrichment and revision of the guidelines on “measurement uncertainty and decision rules in compliance assessment”. These guidelines, established by a Customs Laboratories group on measurement uncertainty, were adopted as common guidelines in 2013 and revised in 2019.

Use of statistics for processing precision data and other performance characteristics obtained in proficiency tests.

**Workshop on**
**Routine/Screening Methods of Analysis**
Criteria and conditions for the acceptability of results obtained for official customs control purposes, using routine/screening methods of analysis, in addition to the reference methods of analysis laid down in legislation.

**Quality and accreditation Seminar**
Review of the accreditation, quality assurance systems, measurement uncertainty and interpretation of results.

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**Samancta**

**A guide to the sampling of goods for customs and tax inspection**

Samancta is a sampling manual in the shape of an internet application designed to provide a consistent set of sampling instructions for officers in all the Member States. It is available in 23 European languages.

**The aim of Samancta**

- To improve the quality of samples received for analysis at laboratories.
- To harmonise procedures across Europe
- To provide constructive guidance to officers on the sampling methods to be used for each type of product.

**The structure of Samancta**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>General Chapters</th>
<th>Specific Sampling Procedures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Terms and Definitions;</td>
<td>• Description of goods covered</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The legal basis of the guide;</td>
<td>• Minimum size of each sample</td>
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</table>
• Health and Safety;
• Standards (relevant ISO & EN Standards);
• General Principals of Sampling and Sample Handling;
• Sampling Tools;
• Sampling Containers;
• Training Guide;
• Website for EU Customs Laboratories

• European/ISO Standards that may apply
• Specific legislation
• Equipment required
• Safety precautions
• Sampling plans/methods
• Sample Storage and Transportation
• HS Codes covered by the card

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**Sampling Manual for Customs and Tax Authorities**

- **SAMANCTA is a product of CLEN**
- **SAMANCTA is available on-line**
- **SAMANCTA is available in all EU languages**
- **SAMANCTA is used by customs and tax authorities**
- **SAMANCTA e-learning is also available**
- **SAMANCTA update and enrichment is carried out**

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**SAMANCTA** is a product of the European Union's Customs Laboratories European Network (CLEN) and is available online. It is accessible in all EU languages and is widely used by customs and tax authorities. The e-learning component is also available. Regular updates and enrichments are conducted.