PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL
OF ROAD VEHICLES/CONTAINERS

Erik Willems
Customs expert
Functions / Objectives

• Prevent the removal of goods from the load compartment (or introduction into) without leaving obvious traces of tampering or breaking the Customs seal
• Facilitate simple and effective affixing of Customs seals
• No concealed spaces
• Make load compartments readily accessible for Customs inspection
Obligation for approval + exceptions

Art 3a) the transport operation must be performed (i) by…vehicles or containers previously approved..

Exceptions:

- Heavy and bulky goods (= object which because of its weight, size or nature is not normally carried in a closed road vehicle or closed container)
- Buses, cranes.. Considered as goods travelling by their own means (= Heavy and bulky goods)
Quiz

Which of the following is not considered as heavy or bulky goods?

A. Bus travelling on its own wheels
B. Livestock
C. Milk in a tank
D. Gravel on an open platform
Chapter III: Transport of goods under the TIR Carnet

(a) Approval of vehicles and containers

Article 12

Every road vehicle must as regards its construction and equipment fulfil the conditions set out in Annex 2 to the Convention and must have been approved according to the procedure laid down in Annex 3. The certificate of approval shall conform to the specimen in Annex 4.
(a) Approval of vehicles and containers

Article 13

Containers must be constructed in conformity with the conditions laid down in Annex 7, Part I and must have been approved according to the procedure laid down in Annex 7, Part II.

!! Containers approved in the framework of Container Convention are also approved for the TIR convention !!
PROOF OF APPROVAL CERTIFICATE /PLATE

Road vehicles : certificate

Containers : approval plate

Approval Certificate
of a road vehicle for the transport of goods
under Customs seal

Certificate No ..................

APPROVED FOR TRANSPORT UNDER CUSTOMS SEAL

NL/26/73

TYPE .......... MANUFACTURER'S No
OF THE CONTAINER ..........
Defined by national legislation:

• Customs
• Ministry of Transport
• An authorized private company
TWO PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL

• Individually or
• By design type (series of road vehicles, containers)
• Approval certificate is issued for all approved vehicles

• If the owner has changed, the certificate remains valid

• Vehicles are produced every two years for inspection and renewal of approval

• If a vehicle no longer complies with the technical regulations, it should be restored to the original condition

• If the essential features are changed, the vehicle must be re-approved
INDIVIDUAL APPROVAL

• Competent authority shall inspect road vehicle (standard approval reports)
• Deliver a certificate of approval
• Granted by the competent authorities of the country of construction at request of the manufacturer
• Application shall contain identification numbers which will be assigned
• Application accompanied by drawings /detailed specifications
• Authorities can inspect vehicles/production process
• Holder fills in item 1 (registration No.) or, in some cases, item 8 (name and business address) on the approval certificate
• Model in Annex 4

• Format A3 folded in two

• Printed in the language of the country of issue and in French or English

• Photo or diagrams may be attached (authenticated by the issuing authority). Their number is indicated under item 6

• Number of seals, if more than one, is indicated under item 5 (comment)

• Original must be kept on the road vehicle
APPROVAL CERTIFICATE
of a road vehicle for the transport of goods
under Customs seal

Certificate No ……………………………………………………………………………………

TIR Convention of 14 November 1975

Issued by: ………………………………………………………………………………

(Competent Authority)

1. Registration No …………………………………………………………………………

2. Type of vehicle …………………………………………………………………………

3. Chassis No ………………………………………………………………………………

4. Trade mark/name of manufacturer …………………………………………………

5. Other particulars ………………………………………………………………………

6. Number of copies:

7. APPROVAL

☐ Individual approval

☐ Approval by design type

Authorization No (if applicable) …………………………………………………

Place ………………………………………………………………………………………

Date ………………………………………………………………………………………

8. HOLDER (manufacturer, owner or operation) of goods declared for import

Name and address ………………………………………………………………………

9. RENEWALS

Valid until

Place

Date

Signature

Stamp

* * *

Please see the "Important Notice" on page 4.

2 (ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.18; entered into force on 1 August 1995)
## IMPORTANT NOTICE

1. When the authority which has granted the approval deems it necessary, photographs or diagrams authenticated by the authority shall be attached to the approval certificate. The number of those documents shall then be inserted by the competent authority, under item No. 6 of the certificate.

2. The certificate shall be kept on the road vehicle. This must be the original of the certificate, not however, a photocopy.

3. Road vehicles shall be produced every two years, for the purposes of inspection and of renewal of approval where appropriate, to the competent authorities of the country in which the vehicle is registered or in the case of unregistered vehicles, of the country in which the owner or user is resident.

4. If a road vehicle no longer complies with the technical conditions prescribed for its approval, it shall, before it can be used for the transport of goods under cover of TIR Carnets, be restored to the condition which had justified its approval so as to comply again with the said technical conditions.

5. If the essential characteristics of a road vehicle are changed, the vehicle shall cease to be covered by the approval and shall be re-approved by the competent authority before it can be used for the transport of goods under cover of TIR Carnets.
• Contracting Parties recognize the validity of the approval granted in other Contracting Parties

• However, they reserve the right to refuse to recognize the approval of road vehicles which do not meet the TIR technical conditions

• Contracting Parties shall avoid delaying traffic when the defects found are of minor importance and do not involve any risk of smuggling

• If a major defect is found, the competent authority may either refuse the vehicle to continue or allow to do so under the necessary precautions. In any case, before a new TIR transport the defect should be rectified.
• Approval certificate is issued which gives the right to affix the approval plate.

• Containers have not to be produced every two years for inspection and renewal of approval

• If a container no longer complies with the technical regulations, it should be restored to the original condition

• If the essential features are changed, the container must be re-approved
APPROVED FOR TRANSPORT UNDER CUSTOMS SEAL

NL/26/73

TYPE .......... MANUFACTURER’S No
OF THE CONTAINER ..........
Questions ?
Guidance on TIR Website

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Customs expert

Finland
June 2013
Documentation TIR Website
http://www.unece.org/tir/training/english/tir-secure-vehicles-containers.html

- Convention
- Documents discussed at WP 30/AC2/TIRExB
- Presentations at TIR seminars

+ 

- Approval reports
- Good practice guide
- Power Points on secure vehicles
Sealing of Vehicles
SECURITY and RISKS

Good Practice Guide

ENFORCEMENT PROJECT
Belgrade, 2006
The sheet may be accidentally ripped during the journey. Usually this is not serious damage and can be easily noticed - (Pic. A and B). The upper part (roof) of the sheet is more difficult to check and therefore more likely to have openings for fraudulent purposes.

Special attention should be paid to those parts of the sheet containing inscriptions - (i.e. Company name or logo) - as they might cover repairs made incorrectly and be difficult to detect - (Pic. C).

A: Sheet ripped during journey, with rather extensive damage. This trailer should NOT be allowed to continue to transport under customs seal - unless it is repaired.

B: Sheet ripped during journey, with minor damage. Dependent on the commodity being transported, this trailer COULD be allowed to complete the current journey - but should NOT be able to carry out further international transport without being repaired.

C: Company logo covering repair made incorrectly - sheet repaired by using adhesive tape on the inner side of the sheet.
TIR secure vehicles or containers

1. Approval report for sheeted vehicles
2. Approval report for solid-sliders
3. Approval report for vehicles with sideboards and sliding sheets
4. Approval report for vehicles with strap hooks and sliding sheets
5. Approval report for tankers
6. Approval report for vans
7. Approval report for hydraulic ramps for loading and unloading

Good practice guide sealing of vehicles

PPT approval of specific construction of road vehicles 2010
PPT on approval of vehicles with sliding sheets 2006
PPT on technical regulations 2011
TIR technical regulations 2011
Several approval reports

I. Approval report for Sliding sheets
II. Approval report for solid-siders
III. Approval report for vehicles with sideboards + sliding sheets
IV. Approval report for vehicles with strap hooks + sliding sheets
V. Approval report for tankers
VI. Approval report for vans
VII. Approval report for hydraulic ramps for loading /unloading
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction:</th>
<th>1: The constituent parts of the load compartment assembled by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Bolts inserted from outside, the nut on the inside welded to the bolt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Rivets inserted from outside, secured on the inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Welding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Compartment floor secured by self-tapping screws, nails or rivets - inserted from the inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Compartment floor secured by other means, e.g. double-flooring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Side-boards:</th>
<th>2: Locking mechanisms secure:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Locking mechanisms for side-boards cannot be operated and opened, e.g. handles covered by the sheet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Locking mechanisms for side-boards secured by a folding TIR-ring integrated in the pillar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hinges and hinge-pins secure:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Bearings or hinge-pins mounted on the chassis by welding or by bolts secured by welding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Hinges mounted on the side-board secured, i.e. bolts welded, no access to the bolts or secured by a bolt inserted vertically through the sideboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Self-securing hinges - the side-board must to be open and lowered in order for the hinge to slide off the hinge-pin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rear doors:</th>
<th>4: Door closing system secure:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(complete only if the vehicle is equipped with rear doors)</td>
<td>□ Cam engaging devices, bearings and saddles for locking rods secure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(TIR Convention, Annex 2, Article 2, Paragraph 1 (a-b))</td>
<td>□ Manoeuvring handle and locking rod securing point: RIVETED / WELDED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(TIR Convention, Annex 2, Article 2, Paragraph 1 (a-b))</td>
<td>□ Customs sealing device (and the pivoting section) secured by welding or by a joining device requiring handling from both sides of the constituent parts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spaces between eyelets (and TIR rings) does not exceed 20 cm, and each individual eyelet directly corresponds a TIR ring. (TIR Convention, Annex 2, Article 3, Paragraphs 1-11. Sketches no. 1-4 and explanatory notes).

Rings and reinforcement for eyelets are made of metal. The sheet is repaired. Repairs made in accordance with methods described. Eyelets at the edge of the sheet are reinforced. Reinforcement made of suitable material and intact.

Vehicle registration number:  
Chassis number:  
Sheet:  
6: The sheet is made of (material):
   - [ ] Strong canvas
   - [ ] Plastic-covered or rubberized cloth - sufficient in strength and unstretchable

7: The sheet is made up of several pieces:
   - [ ] Pieces sewn together with two seams - ALL seams must be machine-sewn.
   - [ ] Pieces welded together - leaving a clearly-defined uniform relief pattern. Pieces cannot be separated and rejoined without leaving obvious traces.

8: Condition of the sheet:
   - [ ] The sheet is in good condition and made up in such a way that once the closing device has been secured, it is impossible to gain access to the load compartment without leaving obvious traces.
   - [ ] The sheet is repaired.
   - [ ] Repairs made in accordance with methods described.

The vehicle is affixed with a TIR plate as described in Article 16 and Annex 5 of the Convention.

No goods can be removed from or introduced into, the sealed part of the vehicle without leaving obvious traces of tampering or without breaking the Customs seal.

Customs seals can be simply and effectively affixed.

The vehicle contains no concealed space where goods may be hidden.

All spaces capable of holding goods are readily accessible for Customs inspection.

(A) No goods can be removed from or introduced into, the sealed part of the vehicle without leaving obvious traces of tampering or without breaking the Customs seal

(B) Customs seals can be simply and effectively affixed

(C) The vehicle contains no concealed space where goods may be hidden

(D) All spaces capable of holding goods are readily accessible for Customs inspection
Questions ?

Thank you!

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