

The Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets, 1975

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TIR
**UNITED
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Overview

- Customs transit problem
- TIR history and characteristics
- Objectives
- Advantages
- Geographical Scope
- The Five Pillars of the TIR System
- Management structure
- Accession and working aspects
- Summary

Transit - What is the problem?

Cross border transit transport of goods implies:

- dealing with two or more national transit requirements;
- being required to provide national transit documentation in each country involved
- often being required to provide separate transit guarantees in each country involved

TIR Convention

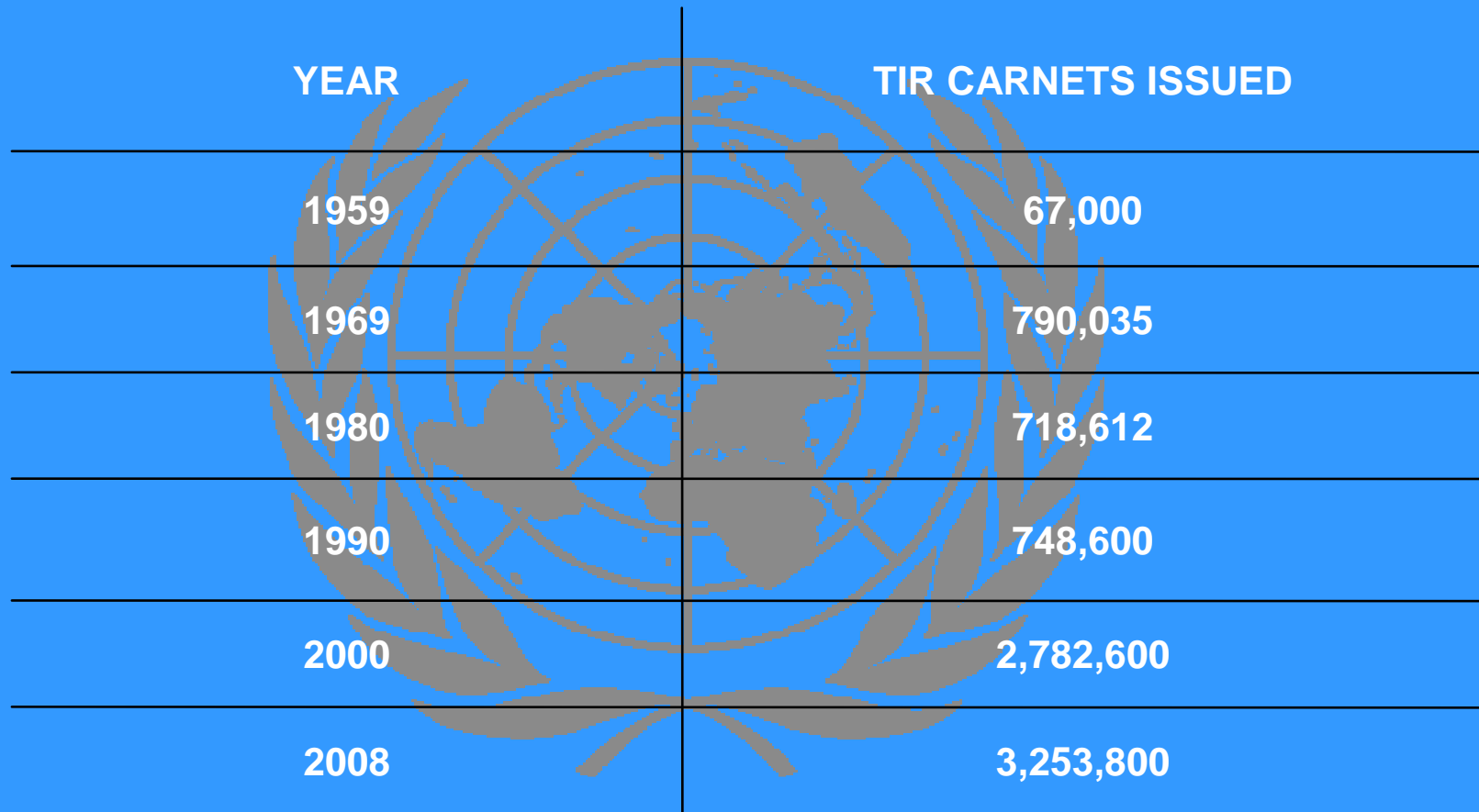
History:

- First Convention 1959, revision 1975
- From 6 countries to 68 countries
(Operational: 56)

Characteristics:

- Only operational global Customs transit procedure
- Also applicable in bilateral transit traffic
- Intermodal (trucks and containers)

Number of TIR Carnets distributed



| YEAR | TIR CARNETS ISSUED |
|------|--------------------|
| 1959 | 67,000 |
| 1969 | 790,035 |
| 1980 | 718,612 |
| 1990 | 748,600 |
| 2000 | 2,782,600 |
| 2008 | 3,253,800 |

OBJECTIVES

Customs Authorities

- Efficient Customs procedures for transit traffic
- Revenue protection through provision of an international guarantee

Transport Sector

- Facilitation of cross border transports
- Simplification and harmonization of Customs transit procedures

Advantages

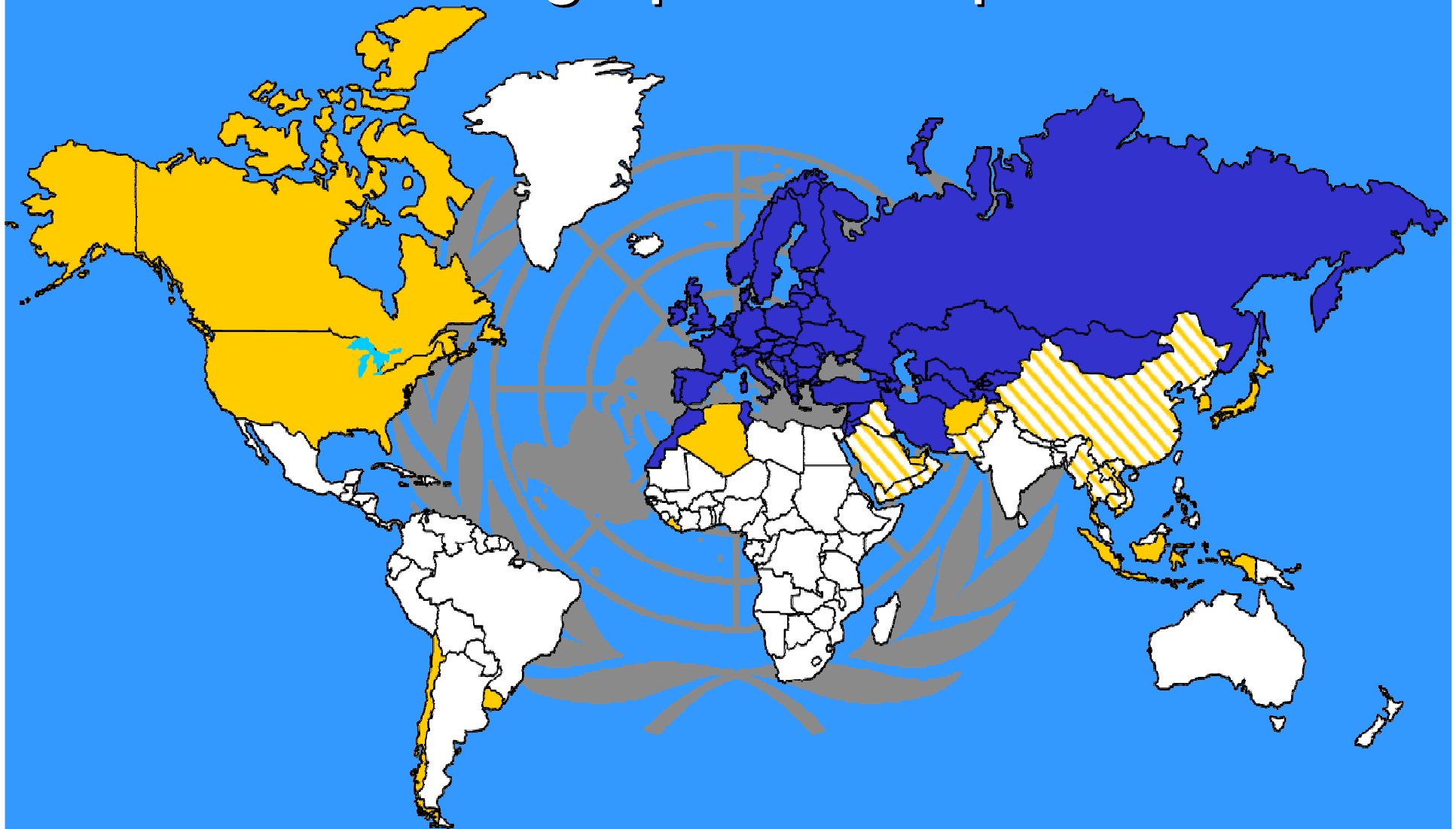
Customs Authorities

- No physical inspection of goods in transit
- No national guarantee system
- No national Customs document

Transport/Trade Industry

- Minimum of procedures at borders
- Reduced delays at borders
- No restriction in the modes of transport
- Lower trade and transport costs

Geographical scope



The TIR Customs transit procedure

TIR Convention, 1975

5 pillars of the TIR system

Secure vehicles
or containers

International
guarantee

Document
(TIR Carnet)

Mutual recognition
of Customs
control

Controlled
access

Approval of road vehicles and containers

- Annex 2 (vehicles) and Annex 7 (Containers)
- No goods can be removed without leaving obvious traces or breaking the Customs seal
- Customs seals can be simply and effectively affixed to them



International guarantee

- One unique guarantee system for all TIR
- National guaranteeing association guarantees duties and taxes
- Covers all TIR operations in a country, both by national or foreign transport operators
- Associations linked through international chain administered by International Road Transport Union (IRU)
- Limit equal to US \$ 50.000 per TIR Carnet

The TIR Carnet

- Customs document replaces any other national Customs transit documents
- Guarantee document which itself proves the existence and validity of the guarantee
- Annex 1: Model
- Paper document processes will be computerized in future.

Mutual recognition of Customs control

- Principle: Customs control measures taken in the country of departure should be accepted by the countries of transit and destination
- No examination of sealed load compartments, except in special cases
- Customs inspection at the office of departure crucial
- Only documentary control en route (exceptions)

Controlled access to the TIR System

- By Administrative Committee of International organization (Article 6.2bis)
- By national Customs authority of national Associations, issuing and guaranteeing TIR Carnets (Annex 9, part I)
- By national Customs authority of Transport Operators (Annex 9, part II, b)

TIR Management Structure

- TIR Administrative Committee
- TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)
- UN/ECE Working Party (WP.30)
- TIR Contact Group
- UNECE/TIR secretariat
- International Organization - IRU

Working aspects

- Official languages: English, French, Russian
- All Member States of the UN can accede to the TIR Convention and participate in meetings
- Accession to the Convention is free of charge
- Participation in meetings is free of charge
- Meetings normally in Geneva
- Interpretation into official languages
- Consensus approach

Summary

- International intermodal Customs transit system (bilateral, inter-regional, intercontinental)
- Provides cost efficient Customs transit procedure and facilitation
- Ensures revenue protection through guarantee
- Boosts competitiveness & global integration
- Builds on Public/Private partnership model
- Provides free access for all UN members
- Enhances transit and supply chain security



<http://tir.unece.org>