



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport****157th session**

Geneva, 9 and 10 June 2021

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

International Convention on the Harmonization of**Frontier Controls for Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention):****Issues in the application of the Convention****Survey on Annex 9****Note by the secretariat****I. Background and mandate**

1. At its eleventh session (June 2019), the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (AC.3), recalled that Annex 9 to the Harmonization Convention entered into force on 30 November 2011. This is a second annex to the Harmonization Convention dealing with a particular mode of transport. Annex 9 provides, inter alia, requirements for border (interchange) stations and for cooperation between adjacent countries. It foresees also a mechanism for reciprocal recognition of controls of rolling stock, containers, etc., a need to comply with time limits for reception and transfer of trains, means of documentation facilitation (through the use of the CIM2 /SMGS3 railway consignment note, instead of other shipping documents, and also as a customs document). The Committee recalled that, in 2013–2014, the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) conducted a survey on national applications of Annex 9. The survey is contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/6 and its results in Informal document SC.2 No. 2 (2014). The Committee invited SC.2 to assess whether it would be worthwhile to relaunch the survey (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.3/22, paras. 21 and 22).

2. At its seventy-third session (November 2019), the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) was updated on developments with Annex 9 to the “Harmonization Convention” for the facilitation of rail border crossings in the pan-European region. The secretariat noted that in the past a survey had been sent to members of SC.2 on annex 9 but that there had been little interest shown over the years. Given that WP.30 conducts its own survey on the implementation of the Harmonization Convention the secretariat suggested that it was not necessary to undertake this survey in future within the framework of the Working Party on Rail Transport (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/232, para. 58).

3. At its eighty-third session (February 2021), the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), entrusted SC.2 and WP.30 to include on the agenda of the meetings the issue of monitoring the implementation of Annex 9 “Facilitation of border crossing procedures for international

rail freight traffic” to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (ITC Informal document (2021) No. 8/Rev.5, decision No. 57).

4. Further to this request, the secretariats of SC.2 and WP.30 jointly prepared a survey to monitor the implementation of Annex 9.

II. Considerations by the Working Party

5. The Working Party is invited to express itself on the questions in Annex and the intended addressees as well as to provide the secretariat with instructions about the distribution of the survey and deadlines for reply.

Annex**[Please do not fill in – draft only]****Joint SC.2/WP.30 draft questionnaire on the implementation of Annex 9 to the Harmonization Convention**

Please return byto the ECE secretariat at.....

Your name is

You work for the following competent authority:

- Customs
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Railways
- Railway company (please specify)
- Other (please specify)

Country:

1. Please provide information about the publication of Annex 9 in your country.
 - It has been published on (date of publication)
 - It is scheduled to be published (expected date of publication)
 - It has neither been published nor scheduled to be published
 - Other (please specify)
2. Does your country have border (interchange) stations?
(Defined in Annex 9 as: "Border (interchange) station" shall mean a railway station where operational or administrative procedures are performed in view of enabling a border crossing of rail freight. This railway station may be at the border or near the border.)
 - no
 - yes. Please indicate the number of stations
3. Does your country allow that crews, persons accompanying shipments and staff can actually cross the border beyond the immediate border station?
 - no
 - yes
4. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the granting of visa for locomotive crews, refrigerated unit crews, persons accompanying shipments and staff at border (interchange) stations?

no

If no, please briefly explain why not

yes

If yes, please briefly describe the measures taken

5. Are there any bilateral agreements between your country and neighbouring countries to facilitate the granting of visa?

no

yes. If yes, please indicate with which neighbouring countries such agreements exist

6. Do the border (interchange) stations identified in Question 2 dispose of any of the following? If so, how many stations have these facilities?

buildings (premises) plant, facilities and technical equipment; – Number:

possibility to conduct phytosanitary, veterinary and other controls; – Number:.....

sufficient traffic capacity and adjacent tracks to cope with volume of traffic; – Number:

inspection areas and warehousing for temporary storage; - Number:

equipment, facilities, information technology and communication systems to enable the exchange of advance information; - Number:

sufficient qualified staff of railway, customs, border and other agencies; - Number:...

technical equipment, facilities, information technology and communication systems to receive and use in advance data on technical approval and technical inspections of rolling stock. - Number:.....

7. Are there any bilateral agreements between your country and neighbouring countries to coordinate actions with respect to the controls of rolling stock, containers, piggyback semi-trailers and goods as well as the processing of shipping and accompanying documentation?

no

yes. If yes, please indicate with which neighbouring countries such agreements exist

8. Does your country carry out customs controls based on risk assessment?

no

yes

9. Does your country perform simplified controls at borders and move, where possible, certain forms of control to the stations of departure and destination?

- no
- yes
10. Does your country, as a rule, carry out inspections of transit goods only in cases where these are warranted by the actual circumstances of risks?
- no
- yes
11. Does your country engage with neighbouring countries (through bilateral agreements) to reduce time limits for the reception and transfer of trains at border (interchange) stations?
- no
- yes. If yes, please indicate with which neighbouring countries such agreements exist and what good practice solutions you have identified.....
12. Does your country record delays of trains or wagons at border (interchange) stations?
- no
- yes. If possible, please send any such data separately to the ECE secretariat.
13. Does your country transmit information on delays to other parties?
- no
- yes
14. Does your country engage in using electronic systems for the exchange of information contained in railway consignment notes and customs declarations?
- no
- yes
15. Does your country use the CIM/SMGS railway consignment note?
- no
- yes

Thanks for your participation. Please do not forget to return the filled in questionnaire to the ECE secretariat at...
