Distr.: General
7 June 2023

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

163rd session
Geneva, 8 and 9 (a.m.) June 2023
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda
Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

Issues in the application of the Conventions

Transmitted by the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme / Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (AIT/FIA)

Electronic Carnet de Passage System

Implementation, Responsibilities, and Message Exchange

Abstract:

This document presents a comprehensive overview of an electronic carnet de passage system, its functionalities, and the responsibilities associated with its implementation. The electronic carnet de passage is a digital solution designed to streamline the process of crossing international borders with vehicles temporarily imported for tourism or business purposes. The system incorporates efficient message exchange mechanisms to facilitate communication between stakeholders involved in the carnet de passage process. This document provides a detailed description of the system's key components, responsibilities of various stakeholders, and the message exchange protocols employed.

Table of Contents:

Contents

Introduction

1.1 Background:

The carnet de passage is a temporary import document used by international travellers to cross borders with their vehicles without paying duties or taxes and without the need of a bond/cash deposit. Traditionally, the carnet de passage process involves physical paper documents and extensive manual procedures. However, the emergence of digital technologies has opened new possibilities for automating and streamlining this process, leading to the development of the electronic carnet de passage system by the AIT/FIA in collaboration with the UNECE.

1.2 Objective:

This document aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how an electronic carnet de passage system would work, outlining the responsibilities of stakeholders involved and detailing the message exchange protocols employed throughout the process.

Electronic Carnet de Passage System Overview

2.1 Definition and Purpose:

The electronic carnet de passage system is a digital solution that replaces the traditional paper-based carnet de passage process. It facilitates the temporary importation of vehicles across international borders by storing and exchanging information digitally. The system aims to enhance efficiency, reduce administrative burdens, and improve the overall experience for travellers and customs authorities.

2.2 Key Features and Benefits:

The electronic carnet de passage system offers several key features and benefits, including:

- Digital storage of vehicle and traveller information
- Simplified application and approval processes
- Real-time border crossing notifications
- Enhanced customs clearance and inspection procedures
- Improved data accuracy and reliability
- Reduced paperwork and administrative costs

2.3 Components of the System:

The electronic carnet de passage system comprises various components, such as:

- Web-based or mobile application for vehicle owners and customs authorities
- Centralized database for storing and retrieving carnet information
- Messaging protocols and interfaces for communication between stakeholders
- Security measures to protect data integrity and confidentiality
- Stakeholders and Their Responsibilities

3.1 Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA):

As the global governing body for motor sport and mobility, the FIA plays a crucial role in the implementation and standardization of the electronic carnet de passage system. Its responsibilities include:

- Setting guidelines and standards for system development and operation
- Facilitating international cooperation among National Automobile Clubs (NACs) and customs authorities
- Ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and legal frameworks

3.2 National Automobile Clubs (NACs):

NACs are responsible for managing the carnet de passage system at the national level. Their key responsibilities include:

- Registering vehicle owners and issuing electronic carnets
- Verifying vehicle and traveler information
- Assisting with application submission and approval processes
- Providing support and guidance to travelers throughout their journey

3.3 Customs Authorities:

Customs authorities play a vital role in the carnet de passage process. Their responsibilities include:

- Verifying the authenticity and validity of electronic carnets
- Conducting inspections and ensuring compliance with customs regulations
- Facilitating smooth border crossings for vehicles with electronic carnets
- Collaborating with NACs and other stakeholders to address any issues or discrepancies

3.4 Carnet Holders/ Vehicle Owners:

Vehicle owners are responsible for adhering to the rules and regulations associated with the carnet de passage system. Their responsibilities include:

- Registering with the NAC and obtaining an electronic carnet
- Providing accurate vehicle and travel information during the application process
- Complying with customs procedures and regulations at border crossings
- Reporting any changes or incidents during the journey

Message Exchange Protocols

4.1 Initial Request and Authorization:

The vehicle owner initiates the process by submitting an electronic carnet request to the NAC. The request includes relevant details such as vehicle information, travel itinerary, and proof of ownership. The NAC verifies the information and grants authorization if all requirements are met.

4.2 Vehicle and Travel Details:

Once the authorization is granted, the vehicle owner provides comprehensive details about the vehicle and the intended travel route. This information is securely transmitted to the customs authorities, allowing them to prepare for the vehicle's arrival and streamline the border crossing process.

4.3 Border Crossing Notifications:

Prior to each border crossing, the vehicle owner notifies the customs authorities via the electronic carnet system. The notification includes the expected arrival time and border checkpoint information. This notification enables the customs authorities to allocate resources and expedite the clearance process.

4.4 Customs Clearance and Inspection:

Upon arrival at the border checkpoint, the customs authorities verify the electronic carnet and perform necessary inspections to ensure compliance with regulations. The inspection results are recorded in the system, providing an audit trail and facilitating future references if needed.

4.5 Closure and Return of Carnet:

Once the journey is completed, the vehicle owner notifies the NAC about the closure of the carnet. The NAC updates the carnet status in the system, and the customs authorities acknowledge the closure. The carnet is then returned to the NAC, closing the temporary importation process.

The message exchange protocols outlined above ensure effective communication and coordination between stakeholders throughout the carnet de passage process.

Implementation Process

5.1 System Requirements and Infrastructure:

Implementing an electronic carnet de passage system requires the following system requirements and infrastructure:

- Robust and secure database infrastructure for storing and retrieving carnet information
- Web-based or mobile application interfaces for vehicle owners, NACs, and customs authorities
- Integration with existing customs systems to facilitate seamless data exchange
- Secure communication channels and encryption protocols to protect sensitive information
- Adequate server capacity to handle the expected volume of transactions and user interactions

5.2 Technical Considerations:

During system implementation, several technical considerations need to be addressed, including:

- Compatibility with different operating systems and devices to ensure widespread accessibility
- Scalability to accommodate increasing user demand and future system enhancements
- Backup and disaster recovery mechanisms to ensure data integrity and availability
- Compliance with data protection and privacy regulations, including GDPR or other relevant frameworks
- User training and support to ensure smooth adoption and effective system utilization

5.3 Data Security and Privacy:

Protecting the security and privacy of carnet de passage data is paramount. The system should employ robust security measures, including:

- User authentication mechanisms, such as two-factor authentication or digital certificates, to prevent unauthorized access
- Encryption of data transmission to safeguard sensitive information during message exchange
- Regular security audits and vulnerability assessments to identify and address potential vulnerabilities
- Compliance with data protection regulations and adherence to privacy best practices

Workflow of the Electronic Carnet de Passage System

6.1 Registration and Authentication:

Vehicle owners register with the NAC and provide necessary identification and vehicle information. The NAC verifies the information and authenticates the user, granting access to the electronic carnet system.

6.2 Application Submission and Approval:

Vehicle owners submit electronic carnet applications through the system, providing detailed vehicle and travel information. The NAC reviews the application, ensuring compliance with requirements, and approves the carnet if all conditions are met.

6.3 Message Exchange and Notifications:

Throughout the journey, the vehicle owner communicates with customs authorities through the system, sending notifications about border crossings, estimated arrival times, and any relevant updates. Customs authorities acknowledge and respond to these notifications accordingly.

6.4 Border Crossing Process:

Upon arrival at a border checkpoint, the customs authorities verify the electronic carnet, perform necessary inspections, and update the carnet status in the system. This process ensures a seamless and efficient border crossing experience for the vehicle owner.

6.5 Monitoring and Auditing:

The electronic carnet de passage system facilitates monitoring and auditing of the carnet process. Authorities can track the movement of vehicles, review inspection records, and

generate reports for analysis and compliance purposes. This data can be utilized to identify any anomalies or potential issues during the journey.

Integration with Existing Systems

7.1 Interoperability with Customs Systems:

To ensure efficient data exchange and coordination, the electronic carnet de passage system should integrate with existing customs systems. This integration enables seamless sharing of information, automates processes, and reduces duplication of efforts.

7.2 Collaboration with International Organizations:

Collaboration with international organizations, such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), enhances the interoperability and standardization of the electronic carnet de passage system across different countries. Working together, stakeholders can establish common guidelines, share best practices, and address cross-border challenges.

Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

8.1 Technological Challenges:

Implementing an electronic carnet de passage system may face technological challenges, such as infrastructure limitations, data security vulnerabilities, or compatibility issues. These challenges can be mitigated through thorough system testing, robust security measures, and continuous monitoring and updates.

8.2 Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:

Adhering to legal and regulatory frameworks, both at the national and international levels, is crucial for the successful implementation

of the electronic carnet de passage system. Cooperation between stakeholders and engagement with relevant authorities can help navigate legal complexities and ensure compliance.

8.3 Stakeholder Cooperation:

The success of the electronic carnet de passage system relies on the cooperation and collaboration of all stakeholders. Engaging stakeholders from the early stages, addressing their concerns, and fostering open communication channels can promote a shared understanding and commitment to the system's implementation.

Conclusion

9.1 Summary of Key Points:

The electronic carnet de passage system offers an innovative and efficient approach to facilitate the temporary importation of vehicles across international borders. By replacing manual processes with digital solutions and implementing effective message exchange

protocols, the system enhances communication, improves process efficiency, and provides a seamless experience for vehicle owners and customs authorities.

9.2 Future Prospects:

As technology continues to evolve, the electronic carnet de passage system holds significant potential for further advancements. Integration with emerging technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence can enhance system security, automate processes, and improve data analytics. Collaboration among countries and standardization efforts can further promote interoperability and facilitate smoother cross-border movements.

_____