



**World Customs
Organization**

Coordination and synergies between customs authorities in relation to the illicit traffic of chemical products and hazardous waste

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF CHEMICALS AND DANGEROUS WASTES IN THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION

18 July 2023

Customs role for Environmentally Sensitive Goods



Regulating the flow of goods into and out of a country, Customs:

- collect duties and other taxes
- facilitate trade
- collect statistical data.

Customs role is also to detect and intercept shipments of goods such as waste or dangerous chemicals that do not comply with prohibitions or restrictions. Thus, Customs check:

- if transboundary movement is allowed
- if the importers/exporters fulfilled the necessary obligations
- validity of the accompanying documents and compliance of goods.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)



MEAs such as:

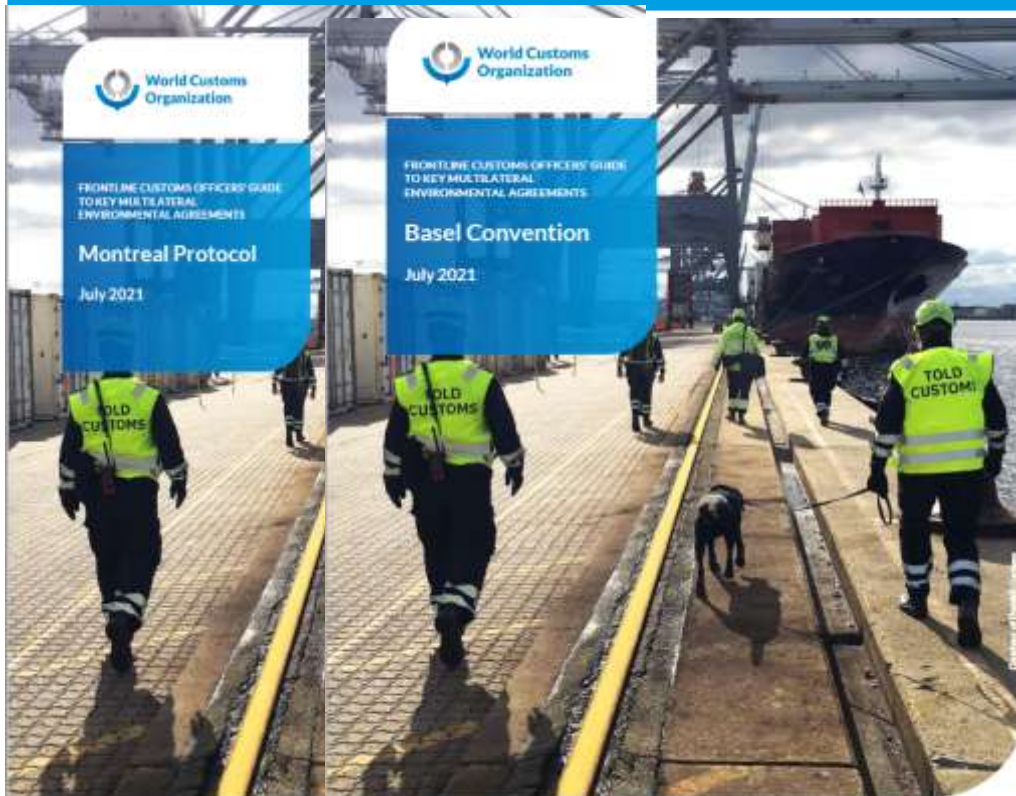
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants
- Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer

put trade-related measures that have impact for customs.

Role of Customs



Customs



www.wcoomd.org

WCO's Members website

Funded by



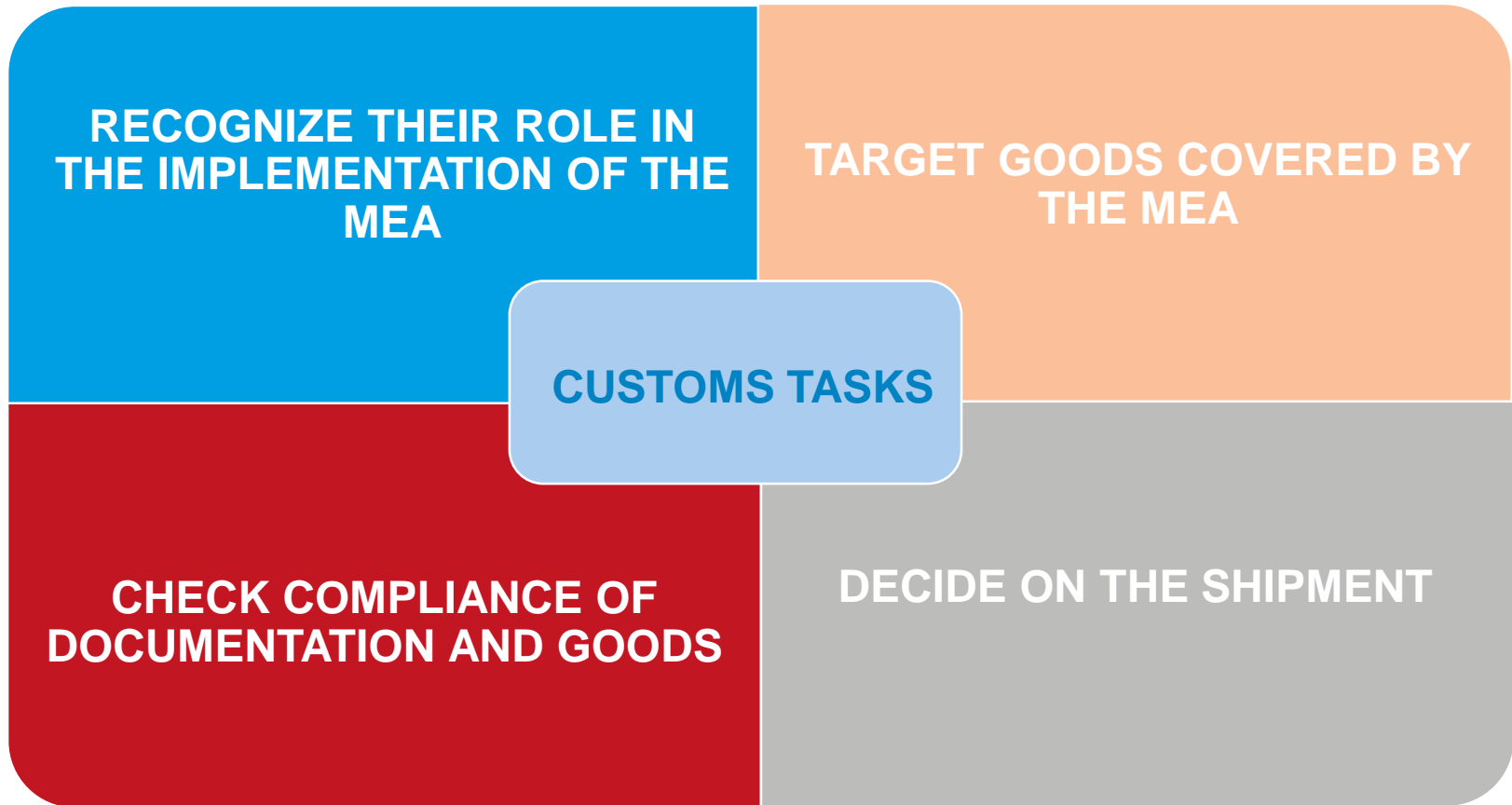
www.greencustoms.org

Role of Customs



- Customs' role in environmental legislation often stems from various regulations which are not specifically designed for Customs, and whose implementation therefore requires close cooperation with national competent authorities to deal with specific issues relating to shipments.
- The following steps should ideally be followed:
 - Establishment and maintenance of up-to-date contact points at management level and operational expert level;
 - Determination of "Terms of reference" for cooperation, taking into account the national legislation and/or administrative structure concerning the responsibilities/functions of the different authorities;
 - Establishment a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU);
 - Translation of the agreements into practical procedures for conducting inspections.

Role of Customs



Role of Customs



Risk management in Customs helps Customs Administrations focus on priorities and in decisions deploying limited resources to deal with the highest risks; facilitates movement of goods and improves the quality of controls

Risk management process involves:

1. Setting the context
2. Identifying the risks
3. Analysing the risks
4. Evaluating the risks
5. Treating the risks
6. Monitoring and review

Role of Customs



- **It is recommended that development of risk criteria should be based on collected information and intelligence from various sources.** Data on legal and illegal trade can be obtained from
- **Information on illegal trade** reported by the parties to the MEAs
- **Customs:** information on risky commodities; Declaration data for import and export, Intelligence information on operators; Feedback from the examination teams related to previous controls
- **Police data:** Information from other countries; information from other authorities;
- **Environmental Authority data:** permits; information about illicit trade; Information on specific legal transports; Contacts Information from regulating authorities concerning restrictions; Reports;
- **Public Prosecution Office data:** Information on cases concerning illegal trade
- **Open source data:** Websites; Google trends; External monitoring in media; official trade statistics and production statistics; Online forums.
- **Import and export statistics** (both yearly and monthly)

Customs Enforcement Operations



- Customs enforcement operations are a means of enhancing the efficiency of Customs enforcement.
- Customs operations usually involve risk analysis, targeting, detaining, and controlling suspicious consignments and traders, data and intelligence sharing as well as inter-agency cooperation, and bilateral or multilateral Customs cooperation.

Operation DEMETER series:

- Launched in 2009
- Focusing on waste
- Since 2019 focusing also on substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

WCO OPERATION DEMETER SERIES



Seizure of Canada Customs



Seizure of Portugal Customs



Seizure of Poland Customs



Seizure of Mexico Customs

THANK YOU!

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