

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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FACILITIES FOR TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT AND PACKING MATERIALS

Draft Recommendations of the International Chamber of Commerce

The Council of the International Chamber of Commerce has submitted the following draft recommendations for the consideration of the CONTRACTING PARTIES having in view the elaboration of an International Convention establishing the principle of temporary duty-free admission of certain professional equipment and packing materials:

"The International Chamber of Commerce

RECALLS at the outset

That the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT, with a view to simplifying and harmonizing the formalities encountered in international trade, and at the instance of the ICC, embarked on work which culminated, on 7 November 1952, in the International Convention to Facilitate the Importation of Commercial Samples and Advertising Material, that came into force on 20 November 1955;

that, on the basis of this Convention, the member States of the Customs Cooperation Council concluded, on 1 March 1956, a Customs Convention on ECS Carnets for commercial samples establishing, on the one hand, a system of customs carnets for samples of value; models and certain advertising films and instituting, on the other hand, a uniform international customs document for that purpose;

that this Customs Convention has come into force, or is being provisionally applied, in the following countries: Austria, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom - other signatories such as Belgium and Luxemburg being shortly due to join the above-mentioned countries;

that import duties on goods entered on these customs Carnets are guaranteed by international chains of commercial organizations (Chambers of Commerce or national sections of the International League of Commercial Travellers and Agents) set up, in the case of the former, under the aegis of the International Information Bureau of Chambers of Commerce of the ICC (BIICC), and in the case of the latter, of the above-mentioned League.

OBSERVES

that the resultant advantages of this system are highly appreciated by the enterprisos that use ECS Carnets.

STRESSES

the importance for international trade of the system of temporary duty-free admission whether in practice it takes the form of customs carnets or triptyques with an international guarantee, or the form of a temporary import document of a national character.

RECOMMENDS

that it be applied in one or other of the forms mentioned above to the professional equipment and packing materials listed below.

1. Professional equipment and instruments

This heading covers

- (a) articles, whether accompanied or not, imported temporarily for the use of engineers, technicians or fitters who have come to the country of import in order to erect, set in operation, inspect or repair machinery or installations supplied by a foreign firm by whom they are employed. The articles in question are in particular

fitter's tools;
measuring or inspection equipment (temperature, pressure, distance, height, surface, speed, etc.) used by such engineers, technicians or fitters;
inspection stations;
photographic apparatus and material imported temporarily to photograph these machines or installations during or after their erection.

It would be desirable that the system of temporary duty-free admission should also cover the same articles used by engineers, technicians and fitters who are not employed by the firm that delivered the machinery and installations.

- (b) accompanied articles, imported temporarily by those who use them for professional purposes. These articles are in particular

cameras (photographic, cinematographic and television) recording and radiotelephone sets;
portable typewriters, dictaphones, calculating machines, slide rules, etc.;
instruments, apparatus and implements imported for geophysical prospecting (mining or oil);
instruments and apparatus necessary for topographical surveys.

2. Packing material, bottles

This heading covers goods imported temporarily which generally travel unaccompanied, i.e.

containers, insofar as they are not already exempt as transport equipment;
packaging and holders that can be re-used, such as drums, reels, rollers, spools, tanks, etc.

The International Chamber of Commerce

RECOMMENDS

1. that an International Convention be elaborated, establishing the principle of the temporary duty-free admission of the professional equipment and packing materials listed above (paragraphs 1 and 2) and laying down the rules to be applied;
2. that, on the basis of this Convention, an international customs document (customs carnet or triptyque) be instituted for the goods listed in paragraphs 1 (a) and 1 (b) above, on which these goods would be entered, hereby benefiting by a general system of guarantee for the payment of any import duties that may be due. In this connexion, the ICC stresses that the Chambers of Commerce affiliated to the BIICC Chain for ECS Carnets are prepared on their side to guarantee such payment;
3. that the above-mentioned international customs documents should imply exemption from import licences, the necessary measures of control being taken by the authorities to prevent fraud."