

ClientAlert

International Trade

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EEC Issues Draft Rule on Electronic Pre-Notification Procedure for Shipment by Rail

The Eurasian Economic Commission (the "EEC") issued a draft decision on July 16, 2013 requiring electronic pre-notification for all goods shipped into the Customs Union (CU) by rail.¹ The draft decision² provides for entry into force of the measure on October 1, 2014; however, the EEC has already initiated public discussion on the measure.³

The draft decision stems from the Agreement "On Presentation and Exchange of Advance Information about Goods and Transportations Conveying across the Customs Frontier of the Customs Union," which the CU member states signed in Saint Petersburg on May 21, 2010. This Agreement builds on World Customs Organization (WCO) standards⁴ that recognize and encourage exchange of advance electronic customs information. Based on this Agreement, the EEC introduced in 2011 obligatory pre-notification for goods shipped into the CU by automobile.⁵

According to the representative of the Russian Federal Customs Service,⁶ pre-notification reduces the time and cost of customs clearance. At the same time, many shippers note that several problems still exist (e.g., in regard to limits on transliteration usage and information system failures) requiring certain improvements in the procedure. These problems notwithstanding, the EEC plans to extend this procedure for shipping by rail and, reportedly, for shipping by marine and air transport as well.

These changes will bring the Customs Union's regulations in line with global standards that the European Union⁷ and the United States⁸ have already implemented for certain cargo.



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¹ Russian authorities introduced voluntary electronic pre-notification for all types of transport in 2008 (Order of the Federal Customs Service of Russia No. 52 "On Implementation of the Information Technology of Filing" Information in the Electronic Form to the Customs on Purposes of Customs Clearance Including Through Internet dated January 24, 2008).

² See: Draft decision of the Collegium of the EEC "On Initiation of Obligatory Advance Notification on Goods Shipping to the Single Customs Territory of the Customs Union by Railway Transportation" published on the official website of the EEC at <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/nae/news/Pages/16-07-2013-1.aspx>.

³ Comments on the draft can be submitted to the Commission by August 20, 2013.

⁴ Standard 6 of the "Safe Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade" adopted by the World Customs Organization dated June 23, 2005.

⁵ Decision of the Collegium of the EEC No. 899 "On Initiation of Obligatory Advance Notification about Goods Shipping to United Customs Territory of the Customs Union by Automobile Transport" dated December 9, 2011.

⁶ Interview with Ruslan Davidov, the deputy director of the Federal Customs Service of Russia, *The Russian Business Newspaper* (Issue 24, dated June 25, 2013).

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/ecip/security_amendment/index_en.htm.

⁸ http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade_outreach/advance_info/.

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