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THE ROLE OF THE TARGETING CENTER AND MODERN CUSTOMS IT SYSTEMS IN IMPROVING CUSTOMS SECURITY OF PORTS

The Customs Service plays a key role in ensuring two important functions of the state: the receipt of taxes to the budget of Ukraine and the prevention of threats to national security.

By decision of 09.09.2019 (based on the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 06.08.2016 No. 37), the Ministry of Finance established the Target Center for the Prevention and Detection of Violations of Customs Legislation.

Currently, a specialized analytical center operates in the customs control system to analyze, monitor and identify potential risks during the movement of goods across the border. It uses data from various sources: electronic customs declarations, cargo databases, information from international customs services, as well as data from GPS tracking systems, RFID tags, video surveillance, and other sources. The goal is to collect information about goods, vehicles, routes, and participants in foreign economic activity to identify potential risks.

The main tool for targeting centers is risk management systems (automated risk management - SARM). SARM is software that analyzes a large amount of data on cargo, routes, vessels, and other factors to identify possible risks of violating the law. After this analysis, the system automatically indicates those goods or vessels that require more thorough inspection. For example, the system can detect a suspicious increase in the volume of a certain product, which may indicate potential smuggling, or a suspicious route for transporting goods. It automatically identifies goods, vehicles or companies that are suspicious due to any deviations from the norm or the presence of previous risks. Target centers cooperate with international customs authorities, exchanging information about potentially dangerous cargo or smugglers (if cargo from a certain country is often associated with smuggling, the system automatically marks such shipments for more thorough inspection). Target centers also work closely with government agencies, such as border guards, security services and international customs services. This provides a rapid exchange of information about potential threats in real time and allows customs officers to respond quickly to potential threats in the behavior of transport or cargo. Thanks to automated data analysis, target centers quickly identify potentially dangerous cargo, which significantly increases the effectiveness of the fight against smuggling, illegal drug trafficking, weapons, and cross-border crime in general. This significantly increases the efficiency of customs control, helping to identify risks and focus resources on potentially dangerous cargo. Therefore, it increases the level of customs security and reduces opportunities for smuggling.

GPS tracking is the installation of GPS devices on vehicles (trucks, ships, railcars) or containers. These devices constantly transmit geographical location data to servers where they can be viewed by logistics companies, customs services or goods owners. GPS tracking allows customs authorities and companies to see exactly where the cargo is at any time. In the event of a change in route or suspicious activity, measures can be taken quickly to verify the situation.

RFID tags (radio frequency identification) are a technology that uses radio waves to automatically identify and track objects. RFID tags can be attached to containers or cargo to identify them during transportation. The RFID tag contains a unique code that is read by a special reader, and when the cargo passes through a checkpoint, the system automatically identifies it and records the data.

RFID tags allow for quick and accurate identification of cargo without the need for physical inspection or manual data entry. This simplifies tracking and security processes, reduces the risk of loss or theft of goods, and facilitates faster response to emergencies. Since each cargo is automatically identified, it reduces the likelihood of errors and fraud during transportation and cargo accounting. Cargo data becomes available to all participants in the process - customs, logistics companies, and customers, which increases the level of transparency and trust between the parties.

Customs authorities can track the movement of goods across the border in real time, which helps prevent violations or smuggling.

Sensors are installed on containers or vehicles and constantly monitor specified indicators (temperature, humidity, pressure, movement, opening of containers, etc.), after which they give signals in

case of any changes or deviations from the norm. In the event of unauthorized opening of the container or other non-standard situation (for example, temperature increase or damage to the cargo), customs and owners of the goods receive an instant notification. The use of sensors in law enforcement activities helps to track the legality of actions with goods during their transportation [1].

Today, many ports of Ukraine still use manual cargo control procedures. This increases risks to national security, especially in cases of movement of prohibited goods, weapons, drugs, dangerous goods, etc.

The problems of technical backwardness can be solved by reforming and technical modernization of the customs system. Thus, in February 2024, the Ministry of Finance approved the Long-Term National Strategic Plan for Digital Development, Digital Transformation, and Digitalization of the State Customs Service. The plan is designed until 2026 and provides for: Implementation of cybersecurity principles; Implementation of paperless procedures; Building reliable and modern customs IT systems [2].

We hope that Targeting centers will contribute to the fastest implementation of these plans.

References

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