



SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

-
14th Session
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42.766 E
(+Annexes I and II)
O. Eng.

SC-3

Brussels, 21 January 1999.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CUSTOMS LABORATORY MATTERS

(Item III.2 on Agenda)

I. MISSION TO UZBEKISTAN

1. As a part of the Secretariat's programme of providing assistance with regard to the establishment or improvement of Customs laboratories, the Technical Attaché responsible for laboratory matters visited Uzbekistan in May 1998.
2. The mission to Uzbekistan was undertaken at the request of the Uzbekistan Customs Administration. A summary of the mission report is set out in Annex I hereto. In this regard, attention is invited to the recommendations in the report indicating areas of further technical assistance requirements of the Uzbekistan Customs laboratory.
3. The Secretariat would urge developed country administrations to seriously consider providing possible assistance to this laboratory.
4. As explained at the previous sessions of the Scientific Sub-Committee, the Secretariat receives requests from many administrations for technical assistance concerning Customs laboratory matters. In view of the limited resources available to the Secretariat, it is not able to provide the requested assistance. Therefore, the Secretariat would like to reiterate its willingness to act as an intermediary in arranging technical assistance between administrations on a bilateral basis. Administrations interested in providing assistance are requested to contact the Secretariat.

File No. 2134

II. INFORMATION ON CUSTOMS LABORATORIES

5. During the intersession, the Secretariat received information from the German Administration concerning its Customs laboratory or incorporation in the Appendix III (Summary of Customs laboratories) of the Customs Laboratory Guide. This information is reproduced in Annex II hereto.
6. The information concerning Customs laboratories of Members provided in the Customs Laboratory Guide was with a view to promoting and facilitating the exchange of laboratory information and analytical techniques among Member administrations on a bilateral basis. Administrations who have not yet contributed its laboratory information for inclusion in the Guide or wish to update the information contained in the Guide are invited to send details to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

III. CONCLUSION

7. The Sub-Committee is invited to take note of the above information. The Sub-Committee is also requested to :
 - (i) give its advice on any further measures that could be considered by Uzbekistan for improving its Customs laboratories; and
 - (ii) express its views on possible measures to enhance technical assistance on Customs laboratory matters, particularly on a bilateral basis (e.g., training courses, etc. conducted by Members for laboratory chemists of other Members).

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Mission to the Uzbekistan Customs Laboratory
(From 4 to 8 May 1998)

[Customs Laboratory]

I. Observations

1. Organization

The Central Customs Administration is located under the State Tax Committee. Under the Chairman of the Central Customs Administration, there are four Deputy Chairmen. The Central Customs Laboratory comes under the First Deputy Chairman. There are 14 Regional Customs Houses in Uzbekistan. Each Regional Customs House has its own Customs laboratory.

2. Role of the Uzbek Customs Laboratories

2.1. Central Customs Laboratory

2.1.1. Analysis service

The Central Customs Laboratory provides analysis services in response to requests for examinations from Regional Customs Houses.

2.1.2. Support of enforcement activities

Another important function is the analysis of suspect goods to determine whether they contain illicit drugs.

2.1.3. Study of scientific matters

The work of the Central Customs Laboratory is not confined merely to analyses; it also involves a considerable volume of research for scientific-related Customs work (e.g. research and development of new analysis methods, etc.).

2.2. Regional Customs Laboratories

2.2.1. Analysis service

The Regional Customs Laboratories provide analysis services in response to requests from Customs officers throughout the region.

2.2.2. Support of enforcement activities

Another important function is the analysis of suspect goods to determine whether they contain illicit drugs.

3. Criteria for referring samples to the Laboratories.

Samples are referred to the Customs Laboratories for the following purposes :

- (1) Correct identification, in order to determine the appropriate tariff heading and valuation.
- (2) To ensure the proper application of the State measures for the regulation foreign trade (national standards, licensing, quotas, prohibitions, etc.).
- (3) Identification of illicit drugs.

4. Profile of Customs Laboratories.

4.1. History of Customs Laboratories

The Central Customs Laboratory was established in July 1993. In 1994, three Regional Customs Laboratories were established in the Andijan, Bukhara and Surkhandarya regions. In 1997, Customs Laboratories were set up in all 14 Regional Customs Houses.

4.2. Organization and staff

There is a staff of 8 in the Central Customs Laboratory, and 25 in 14 Regional Customs laboratories.

The Central Customs Laboratory consists of the following three subdivisions:

- Analytical
- Research
- Technical

The Central Customs Laboratory is planning to reorganize its structure in the near future.

4.3. Location and infrastructure

The Central Customs Laboratory is located in Tashkent. It has a physical test room, balance room, wet analysis room, cotton test room and two instrument rooms.

4.4. Kinds of samples referred to the Customs Laboratories

The main samples analysed are :

- a. Alcohol
- b. Cotton
- c. Dye
- d. Oil
- e. Metal
- f. Foods
- g. Plants
- h. Chemicals
- ij. Petroleum
- k. Illicit drugs (e.g., heroin, cocaine, opium, hashish, cannabis, poppy straw, etc.)

4.5. Instruments and equipment

In the Central Customs Laboratory, analyses are carried out using the following instruments :

- a. ICP
- b. GC-MS/FID + Data base
- c. Specific gravity
- d. Analytical balance
- e. FT-IR + Database
- f. UV/VIS + PC
- g. Microscope
- h. Stereoscope
- ij. Reflect meter
- k. Oven
- l. Cotton grade tester (moisture, elasticity)

II. Recommendation

1. General

As the Customs Laboratories in Uzbekistan have been established recently (from 1993 onwards), there is a need for more experience and know-how in Customs analysis work. It would seem very important for the Uzbek Customs Laboratories to :

- Send staff on missions to study the infrastructure of other Customs Laboratories;
- Obtain training in other Customs Laboratories.

2. Equipment and instruments

Although the Central Customs Laboratory has some sophisticated instruments, the following equipment and instruments should be procured as soon as possible in order to meet requests for analysis from Regional Customs Laboratories and field Customs officers : X-ray diffractometer, HPLC, atomic absorption spectrometer, cotton quality checking equipment, SIMS, etc.

3. Chemical reagents.

It would seem necessary to purchase the basic chemical reagents (see Chapter 3 in Section I of the Customs Laboratory Guide) as soon as possible to meet requests for analysis from Regional Customs Laboratories and field Customs.

Reference samples and standard samples should also be provided to or procured by the Customs Laboratories to permit identification of unknown materials.

4. Literature

Certain analytical methods (e.g., ISO Standards, AOAC methods) and technical references should be procured.

5. Establishment of analytical methods

In order to facilitate laboratory work, it would be desirable to establish recommended analytical methods based on international standards. In this context, Section II (Quantitative criteria in the Harmonized System requiring laboratory analysis) and Section III (Recommended analytical methods) of the Customs Laboratory Guide should be useful.

6. Safety and anti-pollution measures

A separate outside storage room is recommended for flammable and hazardous chemical reagents and high-pressure gases.

Fume cupboards are needed for analytical operations involving significant amounts of solvents.

Waste liquids, including heavy metals should be kept separately in sink tanks after use and should not be released into the normal drainage system. They should be treated to make them harmless to the environment (e.g., neutralisation, precipitation, etc.) before disposal. It is advisable to consult the firms specialised in the treatment of waste chemicals for adopting appropriate measures.

7. Other

Since the Uzbek Customs Laboratories have only started their analysis work recently, the chemists need to acquire experience and know-how in Customs analysis work, although the chemists have a good knowledge of the chemistry aspects. A period of training in an advanced Customs Laboratory to study analysis methods and work for Customs purposes would therefore be desirable. It would seem very important to maintain good communication between field officers and the Customs laboratory chemists on the role of the Customs laboratory and its analysis capabilities. Field officers need to understand the important role of the Customs Laboratory so that they can make effective use of it for HS classification and enforcement purposes.

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Summary of Customs laboratories

Name of country	Germany		
Name of Customs laboratory	Zolltechnische prüfungs- und Lehranstalt der OFD Berlin	Zolltechnische prüfungs- und Lehranstalt der OFD Frankfurt	Zolltechnische prüfungs- und Lehranstalt der OFD Hamburg
Address of Customs laboratory	Grellstraß 16-31 D-10409 Berlin	Gutleutstr. 185 D-60327 Frankfurt/Main	Baumacker 3 D-22523 Hambrug
(Director) Tel. No.	Dr. Kautz 0049 30/820902-75 0049 30/820902-2	Dr. Doßmann 0049 69/23801-125 0049 69/23801-0	Dr. Soldat 0049 40/5721-234 0049 40/5721-0
Fax. No.	Fax 0049 30/820902-23	Fax 0049 69/23801-100	Fax 0049 40/5721-333
(Deputy) Tel. No.	Dr. Dering 0049 30/7759062 0049 30/7762412	Dr. Bassier 0049 69/23801-139	Dr. Schüttpelz 0049 40/5721-221
Fax. No.	Fax 0049 30/820902-23	Fax 0049 69/23801-100	Fax 0049 40/5721-333
Main commodities analysed	Cereals, flours	Milk fat, soap etc., protein, tanning agents	Meat, fats, cocoa, mineral oil and its products, starch, plastics, rubber
Special analytical knowledge	Analysis of cereals and animal fodder	Analysis of milk fat	Determination of animal species in meat, PCR- analysis of fish, microscopic analysis, analysis of plastics and rubber
Special equipment	Ion trap	RFA, Ion trap, NMR	Powderdiffractometry, FT-IR-microscopy, Equipment for rubber analysis, Ion trap
Main instruments/ equipment	UV/VIS, GC, HPLC, microscopes, GC/MS, Electrophoresis, Equipment for automated Nitrogen-, raw fiber- and fat- determination	UV/VIS, GC, HPLC, microscopes, photocolorimeter, AAS	UV/VIS, GC, AAS, HPLC, microscopes, photocolorimeter, X-ray, Electrophoresis, FT-IR, Osmometer
Number of staff	Analysts 9 Technicians 25 Clerical 5 Other 5	Analysts 12 Technicians 24 Clerical 5 Other 7	Analysts 12 Technicians 24 Clerical 4 Other 4

Annex II to
Doc. 42.766 E

Size of laboratory	Analysis rooms 29 Offices 19 Sample/storage room 9 Library 1 Other rooms 9	Analysis rooms 31 Offices 13 Sample/storage room 6 Library 1 Other rooms 4	Analysis rooms 40 Offices 17 Sample/storage room 16 Library 1 Other rooms 18
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Name of country	Germany		
Name of Customs laboratory	Zolltechnische prüfungs- und Lehranstalt der OFD Köln	Zolltechnische prüfungs- und Lehranstalt der OFD München	
Address of Customs laboratory	Merianstraße 110 D-50746 Köln	Landsbergerstr. 122 D-80339 München	
(Director) Tel. No. Fax. No.	Dr. Friedemann-Rotsch 0049 221/97950-179 0049 221/97950-0 Fax 0049 221/97950-227	Dr. Peltzer 0049 89/5109-2340 0049 89/5109-01 Fax 0049 89/5109-2342	
(Deputy) Tel. No. Fax. No.	Dr. Bertram 0049 221/97950-188 Fax 0049 221/97950-227	Dr. Matthes 0049 89/5109-2355 Fax 0049 89/5109-2379	
Main commodities analysed	Sugar, pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic substances	Milk powder, cheese, food preparations, beer	
Special analytical knowledge	Analysis of steels, metals and residues, Analysis of sugars	Food analysis, beverages	
Special equipment	Ion trap y-spectrometry, ICP	ICP, Ion trap	
Main instruments/equipment	UV/VIS, GC, HPLC, microscopes, photocolormeter, AAS, IR, GC/MS	UV/VIS, GC, HPLC, microscopes, photocolormeter, AAS, electrophoresis	
Number of staff	Analysts 13 Technicians 16 Clerical 4 Other 5	Analysts 12 Technicians 25 Clerical 10 Other 0	
Size of laboratory	Analysis rooms 51 Offices 16 Sample/storage room 18 Library 1 Other rooms 25	Analysis rooms 16 Offices 16 Sample/storage room 3 Library 1 Other rooms 5	