No. 4721

AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, DENMARK, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, etc.

Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (with annexes and Protocol of signature). Done at Geneva, on 18 May 1956

Official texts: English and French.

Registered ex officio *on 8 April 1959.*

AUTRICHE, BELGIQUE, DANEMARK, RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE, FRANCE, etc.

Convention douanière relative à l'importation temporaire des véhicules routiers commerciaux (avec annexes et Protocole de signature). Faite à Genève, le 18 mai 1956

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistré d'office le 8 avril 1959.

No. 4721. CUSTOMS CONVENTION[1] ON THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES. DONE AT GENEVA, ON 18 MAY 1956

The Contracting Parties,

Desiring to facilitate international road traffic,

Having regard to the provisions of the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, done at New York on 4 June 1954,[2]

Desiring to apply similar provisions, so far as possible, to the temporary importation of commercial road vehicles and, in particular, to provide for the use, for those vehicles, of the Customs documents prescribed for private road vehicles,

Have agreed as follows :

CHAPTER I

DEFINITIONS

Article 1

For the purpose of this Convention :

(*a*) The term "import duties and import taxes" shall mean not only Customs duties but also all duties and taxes whatever chargeable by reason of importation ;

(*b*) The term "vehicles" shall mean all road motor vehicles and all trailers which can be coupled to such vehicles (whether imported with the vehicle or separately), together with their spare parts and their normal accessories and equipment, when imported with the vehicle ;

(*c*) The term "commercial use" shall mean use for the transport of persons for remuneration, reward or other consideration or for the industrial or commercial transport of goods with or without remuneration ;

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[1] In accordance with article 34, the Convention came into force on 8 April 1959, the ninetieth day after the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the fifth instrument of ratification or accession (*a*) in respect of the following States on behalf of which the instruments were deposited on the dates indicated :

Hungary	23 July	1957
Austria	13 November	1957
Sweden	16 January	1958
Spain	17 November	1958 (*a*)
Denmark	8 January	1959 (*a*)

In addition, the instrument of accession by Cambodia was deposited on 8 April 1959, to take effect on 7 July 1959.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 282, p. 249 ; Vol. 283, p. 360 ; Vol. 285, p. 383 ; Vol. 286, p. 397 ; Vol. 287, p. 354 ; Vol. 299, p. 435 ; Vol. 300, p. 398 ; Vol. 302, p. 376 ; Vol. 304, p. 394 ; Vol. 309, p. 375 ; Vol. 312, p. 429 ; Vol. 314, p. 361 ; Vol. 320, p. 349, and p. 382 of this volume.

(*d*) The term "temporary importation papers" shall mean the Customs document identifying the vehicle and providing evidence of the guarantee or deposit of import duties and import taxes ;

(*e*) The term "undertakings" shall mean commercial or industrial concerns, whatever their legal status, and shall include natural persons engaged in commercial or industrial activities ;

(*f*) The term "persons" shall mean both natural and legal persons unless the context otherwise requires.

CHAPTER II

TEMPORARY IMPORTATION WITHOUT PAYMENT OF IMPORT DUTIES AND IMPORT TAXES AND FREE OF IMPORT PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Article 2

1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall grant temporary admission without payment of import duties and import taxes and free of import prohibitions and restrictions, subject to re-exportation and to the other conditions laid down in this Convention, to vehicles registered in the territory of any of the other Contracting Parties and imported and used in international road traffic for commercial use by undertakings operating from that territory.

2. Such vehicles shall be covered by temporary importation papers guaranteeing payment of import duties and import taxes, and if the case should arise, of any Customs penalties incurred, subject to the special provisions of paragraph 4 of article 27.

3. Vehicles which are imported with a view to their being hired out after importation shall not be entitled to the benefits of this Convention.

Article 3

1. Subject to such conditions as the Customs authorities may impose, the driver and other members of the crew of the vehicle shall be allowed to import temporarily a reasonable quantity of personal effects, having regard to the period of stay in the country of importation.

2. Provisions for the journey and small quantities of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes for personal consumption, shall be admitted free of import duties and import taxes.

Article 4

The fuel contained in the ordinary supply tanks of vehicles temporarily imported shall be admitted without payment of import duties and import taxes and free of import prohibitions and restrictions. Each Contracting Party may however fix maximum quantities for the fuel so admitted into its territory in the supply tanks of the vehicles temporarily imported.

Article 5

1. Component parts imported for the repair of a particular vehicle already temporarily imported shall be admitted temporarily without payment of import duties and import taxes and free of import prohibitions and restrictions. Contracting Parties may require these parts to be covered by temporary importation papers.

2. Replaced parts which are not re-exported shall be liable to import duties and import taxes except where, in conformity with the regulations of the country concerned, they may be abandoned free of all expense to the Exchequer or destroyed, under official supervision, at the expense of the parties concerned.

Article 6

Temporary importation papers and international circulation papers sent to associations authorized to issue the papers in question by the corresponding foreign associations, by international organizations or by the Customs authorities of the Contracting Parties, shall be admitted without payment of import duties and import taxes and free of import prohibitions and restrictions.

CHAPTER III

ISSUE OF TEMPORARY IMPORTATION PAPERS

Article 7

1. Subject to such guarantees and under such conditions as it may determine, each Contracting Party may authorize associations, such as those affiliated to an international organization, to issue either directly or through corresponding associations the temporary importation papers covered by this Convention.

2. Temporary importation papers may be valid for a single country or Customs territory, or for several countries or Customs territories.

3. The period of validity of these papers shall not exceed one year from the date of issue.

Article 8

1. Temporary importation papers valid for the territories of all or several of the Contracting Parties shall be known as "*carnets de passages en douane*" and shall conform to the standard form contained in Annex 1[1] to this Convention.

2. If a *carnet de passages en douane* is not valid for one or several territories, the issuing association shall indicate the fact on the cover and on the importation vouchers of the *carnet.*

3. Temporary importation papers valid only for the territory of a single Contracting Party may conform to the standard form contained in Annex 2[2] or in Annex 3[3] to this Convention. Contracting Parties may also use other documents, in accordance with their legislation or regulations.

4. The period of validity of temporary importation papers, other than those issued by authorized associations as provided for in article 7, shall be laid down by each Contracting Party in accordance with its legislation or regulations.

5. Each Contracting Party shall, upon request, supply the other Contracting Parties with models of temporary importation papers valid for its territory, other than those appearing in the annexes to this Convention.

CHAPTER IV

PARTICULARS ON TEMPORARY IMPORTATION PAPERS

Article 9

Temporary importation papers issued by authorized associations shall be made out in the name of the undertakings operating and temporarily importing the vehicles.

Article 10

1. The weight to be declared on temporary importation papers is the net weight of the vehicles. It shall be expressed in the metric system. In the case of papers valid for one country only, the Customs authorities of that country may prescribe the use of another system.

2. The value to be declared on temporary importation papers valid for one country only shall be expressed in the currency of that country. The value to be declared on a *carnet de passages en douane* shall be expressed in the currency of the country where the *carnet* is issued.

[1] See p. 158 of this volume.
[2] See p. 166 of this volume.
[3] See p. 170 of this volume.