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CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

Customs Convention on the temporary importation of scientific equipment. Done at Brussels on 11 June 1968

Authentic texts: French and English.

Registered by the Customs Co-operation Council on 11 September 1969.

CONSEIL DE COOPÉRATION DOUANIÈRE

Convention douanière relative à l'importation temporaire de matériel scientifique. Faite à Bruxelles le 11 juin 1968

Textes authentiques: français et anglais.

Enregistré par le Conseil de coopération douanière le 11 septembre 1969.

CUSTOMS CONVENTION¹ ON THE TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

PREAMBLE

The CONTRACTING PARTIES to the present Convention, established under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO),

Considering that the development of scientific research and education is vitally important to economic and social progress,

¹ Came into force on 5 September 1969 in respect of the following five States, i.e., three months after the last of the said States had signed it without reservation as to ratification, in accordance with article 20 (1):

State	Date of signature without reservation
Dahomey . . . <i>have</i>	16 January 1969
Denmark . . . <i>have p. 112-124</i>	5 June 1969
(The Convention extends to the Customs territory of Denmark with the exception of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.)	
France . . . <i>have</i>	22 May 1969
Ghana . . . <i>have</i>	15 January 1969
Niger . . . <i>have</i>	22 February 1969

The Convention subsequently came into force, in respect of each of the following States, three months after it had signed it without reservation as to ratification (s) or deposited its instrument of accession (a), with the Secretary General of the Customs Co-operation Council, in accordance with article 20 (2):

State	Date of signature or of deposit of the instrument
<i>Algeria</i>	5 August 1969 <i>a</i>
	(To take effect on 5 November 1969.)
Australia	30 June 1969 <i>s</i>
	(To take effect on 30 September 1969.)
<i>Chad</i>	30 June 1969 <i>s</i>
	(To take effect on 30 September 1969.)
Federal Republic of Germany	10 June 1969 <i>s</i>
	(To take effect on 10 September 1969.)
<i>Gabon</i>	25 August 1969 <i>a</i>
	(To take effect on 25 November 1969.)
<i>Libya</i>	18 June 1969 <i>s</i>
	(To take effect on 18 September 1969.)
<i>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</i>	30 June 1969 <i>s</i>
	(To take effect on 30 September 1969.)
<i>Singapore</i>	8 September 1969 <i>a</i>
	(To take effect on 8 December 1969.)

Convinced that the adoption of general facilities for the temporary duty- and tax-free importation of equipment for scientific research or for education can make an effective contribution to that end,

Have agreed as follows:

CHAPTER I DEFINITIONS

Article I

For the purposes of this Convention:

- (a) the term “ scientific equipment ” means instruments, apparatus, machines or accessories therefor used for purposes of scientific research or education;
- (b) the term “ import duties and taxes ” means Customs duties and all other duties, taxes, fees or other charges which are collected on or in connection with the importation of goods, but not including fees and charges which are limited in amount to the approximate cost of services rendered;
- (c) the term “ temporary admission ” means temporary importation free of import duties and taxes and free of import prohibitions and restrictions, subject to re-exportation;
- (d) the term “ approved institutions ” means public or private scientific or educational institutions whose aims are essentially non-profit making and which have been approved by the competent authorities of the importing country for the purpose of receiving scientific equipment on temporary admission;
- (e) the term “ ratification ” means ratification, acceptance or approval;
- (f) the term “ the Council ” means the Organisation set up by the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council, done at Brussels on 15th December, 1950¹.

CHAPTER II

SCOPE

Article II

Each Contracting Party undertakes to grant temporary admission to:

- (a) scientific equipment which is to be used within its territory solely for purposes of scientific research or education;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 157, p. 129, and vol. 347, p. 379.

- (b) spare parts for scientific equipment which has been granted temporary admission under paragraph (a) of this Article;
- (c) tools specially designed for the maintenance, checking, gauging or repair of scientific equipment which is used within its territory solely for purposes of scientific research or education.

Article III

Temporary admission of the scientific equipment, spare parts and tools may be made subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that they are imported by approved institutions and used under their control and responsibility;
- (b) that they are used for non-commercial purposes within the country of importation;
- (c) that they are imported in reasonable quantities having regard to the purpose of the importation;
- (d) that they are capable of identification on re-exportation;
- (e) that while they are in the country of importation they remain in the ownership of a natural person resident abroad or a legal person established abroad.

Article IV

Each Contracting Party may suspend, in whole or in part, the undertakings given under this Convention where goods of equivalent scientific value to the scientific equipment or spare parts whose temporary admission is sought are produced and available in the country of importation.

CHAPTER III

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article V

Each Contracting Party undertakes wherever it deems it possible not to require security for the amount of import duties and taxes, but to be satisfied with a written undertaking. Such undertaking may be required for each importation or on a general basis for a specified period or, where applicable, for the period of approval of the institution.

Article VI

(1) Scientific equipment granted temporary admission shall be re-exported within six months from the date of importation. However, the Customs authorities of the country of temporary importation may require re-exportation within a shorter period considered sufficient to achieve the object of temporary importation.

(2) For valid reasons, the Customs authorities may either grant a longer period or extend the initial period.

(3) When all or part of the scientific equipment granted temporary admission cannot be re-exported as a result of a seizure, other than a seizure made at the suit of private persons, the requirement of re-exportation shall be suspended for the duration of the seizure.

Article VII

Scientific equipment granted temporary admission may be re-exported in one or several consignments, through any Customs office open for such operations, and not necessarily through the Customs office of importation.

Article VIII

Scientific equipment granted temporary admission may be disposed of otherwise than by re-exportation, and in particular may be taken into home use, subject to compliance with the conditions and formalities laid down by the laws and regulations of the country of temporary importation.

Article IX

Notwithstanding the requirement of re-exportation laid down by this Convention, the re-exportation of all or part of scientific equipment badly damaged in duly authenticated accidents shall not be required, provided that it is:

- (a) subjected to the import duties and taxes to which it is liable; or
- (b) abandoned free of all expense to the Exchequer of the country into which it was temporarily imported; or
- (c) destroyed, under official supervision, without expense to the Exchequer of the country into which it was temporarily imported;

as the Customs authorities may require.