

Activities and administration of the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

Activities of the TIRExB

RECOMMENDATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF HS CODE IN THE TIR CARNET

Note by the TIR secretariat

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. At its 48<sup>th</sup> session, the Committee was informed that, so far, the implementation of the Recommendation on the use of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) code in the TIR Carnet (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/93, para. 28 and Annex II) had not led to major problems for TIR Carnet holders. The Committee recalled that, according to the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, any HS code should consist of 6 digits. However, some Customs authorities required to indicate 4, 8 or even 10 digits on the TIR Carnet. The Committee decided to continue monitoring the implementation of the Recommendation. To this end, the secretariat was mandated to conduct a survey among Contracting Parties to identify best practices (ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/99, para. 24).

2. The Annexes 1 and 2 to this document contain the proposed cover letters and questionnaires for discussion by the Committee. The Committee may wish to approve their content and to request the secretariat to send the questionnaires to Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 as well as to the guaranteeing associations.

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**Annex 1**  
**Questionnaire for Customs authorities**



**NATIONS UNIES**  
**COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE**  
**POUR L'EUROPE**

**ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ**  
**ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ**  
**ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ**

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC COMMISSION**  
**FOR EUROPE**

Geneva, ?? 2010

Ref. No.: TRANS/WP.30/E.A.1.1./2010/??

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

At its 48th session, the TIR Administrative Committee was informed that, so far, the implementation of the Recommendation on the use of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) code in the TIR Carnet had not led to major problems for TIR Carnet holders. Nevertheless, in order to ensure the proper application of the Recommendation, the Committee decided to continue monitoring its implementation. With the aim of devising best practices in the framework of the use of the HS codes in the TIR Carnet, the Committee mandated the secretariat to conduct a survey among the Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and TIR guaranteeing associations.

You will find the survey enclosed to this letter. I very much would appreciate if you could dedicate a few minutes of your time to answer the questions and return the duly filled-in survey to the TIR secretariat (by fax: +41-22-917 06 14 or per email: [tirexb@unece.org](mailto:tirexb@unece.org)) not later than by ?? ?? 2010.

In advance, I would like to thank you on behalf of the TIR Administrative Committee for your kind attention to the matter.

Konstantin Glukhenkiy  
TIR Secretary  
UNECE Transport Division

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

**Survey on the use of HS codes in the TIR Carnet****Country:**.....**Survey filled-in by:**.....

Questions	Answers
Does your administration require the indication of HS codes in the TIR Carnet?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
How many digits does your administration require to indicate in the TIR Carnet?	.....digits
Does your administration require the indication of HS codes on the national Customs transit declaration?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
If so, how many digits are required?	.....digits
Do <i>national</i> transport operators indicate the HS Code on the TIR Carnet?	<input type="checkbox"/> Always <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Often <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <sup>3</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Never <sup>4</sup> .. <input type="checkbox"/> NA <sup>5</sup>
Do <i>foreign</i> transport operators indicate the HS Code on the TIR Carnet?	<input type="checkbox"/> Always <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Never.. <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Do you check that the HS Code on the TIR Carnet is identical to the one provided on the export declaration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Always <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Never.. <input type="checkbox"/> NA

<sup>1</sup> Always : 100%<sup>2</sup> Often : >50%<sup>3</sup> Sometimes: <50%<sup>4</sup> Never : 0%<sup>5</sup> NA : Information not available (or unknown)

Do you require to add the HS code at Customs offices en route or at destination when the code was not indicated at the Customs office of departure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Always <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Never.. <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Does the absence of HS codes on the TIR Carnet lead to additional delays?	<input type="checkbox"/> Always <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Never.. <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Do you consider the absence of HS code as an infringement?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do you consider discrepancies between the HS code and the plain language description as an infringement?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Do you think that it should be mandatory to indicate the HS code on the TIR Carnet and that the TIR Convention should be adequately amended in this respect?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES as soon as possible <input type="checkbox"/> YES at a later stage <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Any further information or comment you may have on the subject are welcome

.....  
 .....  
 .....

Thank you for filling-in the questionnaire

**Please return the duly-filled in form not later than by ?? ?? 2010 to**

**the TIR secretariat at:**

**Fax: +41-22-917 06 14**

**Email: [tirexb@unece.org](mailto:tirexb@unece.org)**

**Annex 2**

**Questionnaire for guaranteeing associations**



**NATIONS UNIES**  
**COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE**  
**POUR L'EUROPE**

**ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ**  
**ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ**  
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**UNITED NATIONS**  
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TIR Secretary  
UNECE Transport Division

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975



**Survey on the use of HS codes in the TIR Carnet**

**Association name:** .....

**Survey filled-in by:** .....

Questions	Answers
Do TIR Carnet holders affiliated to your association voluntarily indicate the HS Code on the TIR Carnet?	<input type="checkbox"/> Always <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Often <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <sup>3</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Never <sup>4</sup> .. <input type="checkbox"/> NA <sup>5</sup>
Please indicate in which countries and which Customs offices (departure, entry, exit or destination) require the mandatory indication of the HS codes in the TIR Carnet, as reported by your members	Country ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Departure <input type="checkbox"/> Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Exit <input type="checkbox"/> Destination ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Departure <input type="checkbox"/> Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Exit <input type="checkbox"/> Destination ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Departure <input type="checkbox"/> Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Exit <input type="checkbox"/> Destination ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Departure <input type="checkbox"/> Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Exit <input type="checkbox"/> Destination ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Departure <input type="checkbox"/> Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Exit <input type="checkbox"/> Destination ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Departure <input type="checkbox"/> Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Exit <input type="checkbox"/> Destination (several indications are possible)
In which countries your members have been requested to indicate HS codes with more than 6 digits in the TIR Carnet?	

<sup>1</sup> Always : 100%

<sup>2</sup> Often : >50%

<sup>3</sup> Sometimes: <50%

<sup>4</sup> Never : 0%

<sup>5</sup> NA : Information not available (or unknown)

In which countries do your members experience additional delays when HS codes where not mentioned on the TIR Carnet?	
In which countries is the absence of HS code considered as an infringement?	
In which countries are discrepancies between the HS code and the plain language description considered as an infringement?	
Do you think that it should be mandatory to indicate the HS code on the TIR Carnet and that the TIR Convention should be adequately amended in this respect?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES as soon as possible <input type="checkbox"/> YES at a later stage <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Any further information or comment you may have on the subject are welcome

.....  
.....  
.....

Thank you for filling-in the questionnaire

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**the TIR secretariat at:**

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**Email: [tirexb@unece.org](mailto:tirexb@unece.org)**

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