

**Workshop
on combating the proliferation of
Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Basics of the Customs Union of the GCC States

**GCC started applying the Customs Union on
January 1st, 2003**

***Principles and Concept of the Customs Union of the
GCC States***

**A Common Customs Law for the GCC States
Common External Customs Tariff for products
imported from outside of the GCC Customs Union
Single Point of Entry into the GCC States
The free movement of goods among the GCC
States**

Evaluate the application of Common Customs Law

**The GCC States applied the Common Customs
Law since 2002. This accomplishment has
achieved significant benefits to the Customs
Administrations of the Member States and is
applied by all member states without exceptions.**

It is a pride for GCC States when 60 Customs outlets apply a common law, with common regulations and procedures to be applied in Customs outlets of all member states.

Evaluate the application of Common Customs Law

The GCC States applied the Common Customs Law towards the external world almost entirely, due to special customs protection exceptions which prevented such customs tariff, based on the customs protection self-exceptions in some GCC States, which will end at the end of this transitional stage.

Evaluate the application of Single Point of Entry

The Single Point of Entry of which customs fees will be collected on exported good for the GCC States. All GCC States applied this requirement since the establishment of Common Customs Law; there was no evidence of any non-compliance from any Member States of this requirement.

General Assessment of the Common Customs Law

The GCC States almost completed the most important requirements for the Common Customs Law with the external world, but one of these requirements, by which the Common Customs Law can be assessed locally, is the movement of

goods between the GCC States without any customs or non-customs restrictions, taking into account the application of Veterinary and agricultural Quarantine, as well as prohibited and restricted goods

Reaching the final status of the Common Customs Law

**Following Al Riyadh Summit in 2011, year 2012 has witnessed tangible procedures and strenuous efforts among GCC States to end the transitional period, as the Supreme Council issued important decisions in its Thirty-second Session. It has been agreed that the final status will start in the beginning of year 2015
By God willing**

Prohibited and restricted goods

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*Prohibited and restricted goods***

There has been an agreement on common prohibited and restricted lists of goods in the GCC States, and also an agreement on common prohibited and restricted lists of goods for each Member State

Coordination between Customs Administrations within GCC States

The GCC Secretariat plays a major role in coordinating Common Customs Law by Customs Administrations in the GCC States. The Supreme Council has decided in its thirty-second session the establishment of Common Customs Commission to be responsible for the application of the Common Customs' requirements properly, and reach the final status in the beginning of 2015

Cooperation between the GCC States and the World Custom Organization

All GCC States are members of the World Custom Organization

And have an active role in all activities of the Organization.

While the Secretariat has an 'observer' status in the Organization,

GCC States cooperate with the World Customs Organization in the fight against smuggling through immediate exchange of information between the Regional Offices for Cases of smuggling and commercial fraud.

The GCC current controls to prevent smuggling and illicit goods

- **Checking the goods' documentation to verify its quality, nature, nationality, elements and source.**
- **Agree on the lists of chemical goods of dual-use, and not clearing it before the importer obtains prior permission to allow it.**
- **Allocate routes and locations to inspect dangerous chemical materials to be able to control it.**
- **Use modern inspection methods to make sure that the imported materials do not include prohibited or restricted materials.**
- **Monitor chemical goods' lists, as agreed with the World Customs Organization.**
- **Coordinate between customs administrations of the GCC States to follow up and monitor suspicious shipments.**

The future plans for the Customs Union of the GCC States to prevent smuggling and illicit goods

- **The GCC States always works to improve the level of customs work in order to facilitate the inspection of goods at once.**
- **Continue and develop training for customs outlets' staff to check prohibited and restricted goods.**
- **Expand the use of advanced technology in inspecting imported goods.**
- **Provide external customs outlets with equipped labs and necessary tools to inspect the imported foreign goods.**
- **Benefit from international experience in inspecting prohibited or restricted goods, and exchange information.**

**We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
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this seminar.**

Thank you for listening

**For more information about the GCC Customs
Union**

You can visit the GCC Website

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