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Istanbul, 3 October 2013

24th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel
Tbilisi - Georgia
Friday, 25 October 2013, at 09:00 hrs

STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE PILOT PROJECT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE WEIGHT CERTIFICATE IN THE BSEC REGION

Background

The International Vehicle Weight Certificate (IVWC) under the Annex 8 to the UNECE International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods-1982 is a facilitation tool for the road transport of goods industry designed to avoid repetitive weight measurements at border crossings, reducing waiting times and transport cost.

The 53 Contracting Parties to the Harmonization Convention accepting and mutually recognizing such certificates shall not carry out weighing procedures on route apart from random checks and controls in case of supposed irregularities. Vehicle weight measurements in such certificates shall take place only in the country of origin of international transport operations.

The United Nations Development Programme (“UNDP”), the IRU and BSEC-URTA agreed to cooperate for promotion and facilitation of road transport in the BSEC region in particular through a Pilot Project for the adoption and integration of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate in the BSEC Member States.

On 16 December 2012, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States decided to set up a Task Force for the implementation of the IVWC in the BSEC region.

The first meeting of the Task Force was held in Istanbul on 11 March 2013. Five BSEC Member States namely Armenia, Moldova, Romania, Russia and Serbia expressed their willingness to start the Pilot Project.

Task Force agreed upon the road map for the BSEC Pilot Project presented by the implementing partners UNDP, IRU and BSEC-URTA.

Following the meeting of the Task Force, the International Secretariat drafted in cooperation with the BSEC PERMIS a questionnaire on issues to be address under the preparatory stage of the Pilot Project which was distributed to the BSEC countries.

Due to the continuous lobby and advocacy by BSEC-URTA for implementation of the IVWC in the BSEC region, 7 BSEC Member States namely Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine addressed the BSEC PERMIS official letters stating their willingness and readiness to start the IVWC Pilot Project and so the current Armenian Chairmanship of the BSEC Organization could address Member States to start the “fast track cooperation procedure” for giving the Pilot Project the status of a BSEC Project.

During August-September 2013 an Expert on behalf of implementing partners(UNDP,IRU, BSEC-URTA) paid site visits in Albania, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, assessed the existing technical conditions for

weighing, issuance and control of the IVWC and held consultations with national authorities in regard implementation of the Pilot Project. A summary of findings during the site visits are as follows:

Country	Legal Procedures to be completed	National Focal Point	IVWC Issuing Authority	Place for IVWC issuance	Type of Weighing Scale for IVWC issuance	Control Authority	Type of Weighing Scale for control
Albania	Completed	Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications	Customs	Durres Customs; Tirana Customs	Static scale for Total Weight	Customs	Static scale for Total Weight
Armenia	Completed	Ministry of Transport and Communications	To be decided after a tender procedure	Yerevan	Dynamic scale for Axles and Total weight (requested under tender)	Customs	Static scale for Total Weight
Georgia	Decision of Cabinet	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	To be decided by the Cabinet (Customs/ Police)	Tbilisi	Dynamic scale for Axles and Total weight	Customs / Police	Dynamic scale for Axles and Total weight
Moldova	Completed	Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure	AITA	Chisinau	Dynamic scale for Axles and Total weight	Customs	Dynamic scale for Axles and Total weight

According to the field findings:

- Weighing procedures differ, some countries using the static scales which measure only the Total Weight of the vehicle this being used by Customs to determine the weight of the load carried, while other countries are using dynamic scales which measure Axles Weight and by summing them results the Total Weight this being useful for both Customs(to determine the weight of the load carried) and Roads Administration (to check the axles load in order to comply with Maximum Permitted Axles load for protection of the road infrastructure). Conclusion: the measurement for issuance of IVWC should be done using a dynamic scale which records the axles weight and the total weight of the vehicle.
- The weighing scales have technical constructive norms which comply with national or regional standards but do not comply with the international norms as foreseen in the technical requirements of the IVWC. Conclusion: national metrology institutes should certify that technical constructive norms of weighing scales which will be used for issuance of IVWC are not only in compliance with national or regional standards but with the international norms as foreseen in the technical requirements of the IVWC.

The way forward

During October and November the Expert will pay side visits to Romania, Serbia and Ukraine and will prepare a report on fact findings in the 7 participating countries to the Pilot Project to be presented for consideration to the 2nd Meeting of the BSEC Task Force for implementation of the IVWC to be held on 25 November 2013 in Istanbul.

Following steps - roadmap could be followed for implementation of the Pilot Project:

A. Preparatory Stage:

- Communication to the Task Force of the institution – National Focal Point to be responsible with the Pilot Project in each participating country to the Pilot Project.
- Nomination by the National Focal Point of its representative as contact person to the BSEC PERMIS.
- Meetings of Expert(s) with National Focal Point representative(s) in each participating country to the Project and site visits of national weighing stations and border crossing points proposed to be part of the Project for evaluation of the technical conditions of the equipment and of the weighing procedures.
- Drafting and dissemination by the Secretariat of a Report on the results of the meetings of Experts and the site visits (Report)
- Fulfilment of legal procedures for implementation of IVWC in participating countries to the Project (ratification in parliament, decree of cabinet of ministers for implementation, others).
- Establishment in each participating country to the Project of the authority / institution to supervise the issuance, usage and control of the IVWC.
- Establishment in each participating country to the Project of the public or private entity in charge with weighing stations, weighing procedures and filling in of IVWC.
- Establishment in each participating country to the Project of the national network of weighing stations which complies with the technical requirements contained in the Appendix 2, paragraph 4 point (c) to the Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention.
- Allocation in each national network of weighing stations of a particular seal for each weighing station belonging to the network.
- Communication to BSEC PERMIS of the list of weighing stations and samples of their seals belonging to each national network of weighing stations of countries participating to the Project.
- Setting up by BSEC PERMIS of a consolidated list of national networks of weighing stations and their related seals and distribution of it to each participating country to the Project and the BSEC PERMIS.
- Communication by the BSEC PERMIS of the consolidated list of national networks of weighing stations and their related seals to the UNECE Secretary Executive.
- Drafting by BSEC PERMIS of rules for administration and issuance of IVWC to be endorsed by each participating country to the Project.
- Translation of the rules for administration and issuance of IVWC and of the IVWC in the national language of the participating countries to the Project.
- Print out of the IVWC in English language (language used under the Project) and distribution in an amount to be agreed upon by the participants to the Project.
- Site visits of Experts to assess developments.
- Training of the technical staff of the each national network of weighing stations.
- Training of the staff of each national authority in charge with weighing procedures at borders and inland check points of each participating country to the Project.

- Organization of a 2nd meeting of the Task Force for establishment of the necessary technical and administrative measures for implementation of the Project.
- Production of Promotional and Informational materials in national languages of participants to the Pilot Project.

B. Implementation Stage:

- Organization of Launching Ceremonies in each participating country for the first usage of the IVWC.
- Start of the issuance, usage, acceptance and monitor of the IVWC.
- Identification of problems and readjustment of the system.

C. First Evaluation Report:

Organization of the 3rd meeting of the Task Force for final evaluation of the Pilot Project and decision for a permanent practice.

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