



Customs Flash Belgium

Common transit procedure extended with addition of Serbia

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Serbia will join the NCTS

On 1 February 2016, Serbia will join the conventions on a common transit procedure, the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) and the simplification of formalities in the trade of goods. The decision for Serbia to accede to these conventions was taken by the EU-EFTA Joint Committees on 11 December 2015 with decisions No 2/2015 and No 3/2015. Serbia deposited its instrument of accession on 9 December 2015.

This means that common transit operations with Serbia and the current contracting parties: the 28 EU Member States, the EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, will commence as from 1 February 2016. This extension will bring major simplifications for economic operators engaged in trade between the contracting parties.

What does it mean for you ?

Companies with current or planned business activities with Serbia should note that as of 1 February 2016, the common transit procedure based on the Convention of 20 May 1987 will be in place. As from that moment, trade with Serbia will be possible under the NCTS which will further facilitate transport and customs formalities with Serbia.

However, to benefit from the common transit procedure, certain actions need to be taken.

What to do?

In principle, all traders will have to provide a guarantee that covers payment of any customs debt or other charges which may be incurred in relation to goods forwarded under NCTS (article 94 of the Community Customs Code) to or from Serbia. For this reason, holders of a Transit Guarantee Waiver Certificate (TC33) or a Comprehensive Guarantee Certificate (TC31) will need to make sure of extending these certificates with Serbia (to be named on the certificate) in agreement with the customs office of guarantee before 1 February 2016.

Deloitte's Customs and Global Trade (CGT) team stands ready to assist with how Serbia joining could impact operations.

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