IMPROVING RISK MANAGEMENT TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF CUSTOMS ACTIVITIES

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Risk is a phenomenon that can arise in almost any type of business activity. Risk is generally understood as the likelihood of loss of resources or loss of income compared to the option of rational use of resources. Customs risks are an important aspect of modern international trade and customs activities. The spread of globalization, the growth of international trade and technological progress create favorable conditions for the emergence of various customs risks that can lead to serious consequences for the economic security of countries and the stability of world trade.

In today's globalized world trade environment, it is clear that state control over foreign trade can only be selective. On the one hand, the increase in foreign trade turnover requires simplification and harmonization of customs procedures to facilitate legal trade and, at the same time, strengthening of control to ensure the completeness of taxation, fight against smuggling, prevent trade in counterfeit goods and counteract other illegal activities that lead to enormous economic losses of countries participating in international trade - if we are talking only about fiscal risks in the field of foreign economic activity.

Traditionally, customs administrations play a key role in assessing, analyzing and managing risks in international trade in relation to the movement of goods and vehicles, narcotic substances and precursors, cultural property, explosives, weapons, military and dual-use goods, etc. across the customs border. In a broad sense, the risk assessment and analysis procedure means that all goods crossing the customs border of a state are pre-evaluated in terms of a system of risk criteria. In this regard, the availability of preliminary information, which is collected, accumulated and pre-processed in special customs units, plays a major role. Assessing the impact and damage caused and making management decisions is the essence of risk management.

Customs in Ukraine is characterized by a variety of risks, in particular, the most significant are the risks associated with the reduction of customs payments due to the understatement of the customs value of goods by foreign economic operators during import, or due to incorrect classification, compliance with non-tariff regulation measures, etc. That is why there is a need to improve the customs clearance procedure for risky goods and develop recommendations for their neutralization. According to the best customs experts, risk management is the basis of modern customs control methods and its peculiar philosophy. Moreover, each customs office should develop its own risk management philosophy, since it is the local customs officials who are best placed to know the hidden risks and specifics of the organization of work of individual participants in foreign economic activity.

Experts of the World Customs Organization are convinced that in order to simplify customs procedures and ensure security in foreign trade, it is necessary to actively use risk assessment and analysis methods. Therefore, when developing national risk management systems, all developed countries aim to use them not only during the customs clearance of goods at the customs border, but also after the release of these goods into their customs territory for free circulation.

The customs administrations of the world's leading countries (the United States, Canada, Australia, the EU, China and others) have been successfully applying risk management systems for more than two decades. The consistent need for its use as one of the most important principles of customs operations is enshrined in such international documents as: The SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and the Risk Management Compendium approved by the World Customs Organization; EU Customs Prototypes; EU Customs Code; the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement; the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement; and other customs-related documents.

Therefore, customs administrations around the world are increasingly implementing risk management methodology to identify the most risky areas and how to actually allocate limited resources to assess and analyze these risks as efficiently as possible. Risk management is not something new for customs, as all administrations apply some form of risk management in their operations. However, as a rule, risk management has existed in a rather specific format on an intuitive level and has not been applied in a systematic and structured manner. Increased automation and mastery of a large amount of information have enabled customs to improve the efficiency of risk assessment and focus on the most risky areas of customs activities. This, in turn, enables customs to facilitate the movement of low-risk goods and implement key government objectives related to trade facilitation and liberalization.