
**Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**
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**The Role of Customs Officers in
Implementing the Protocol**

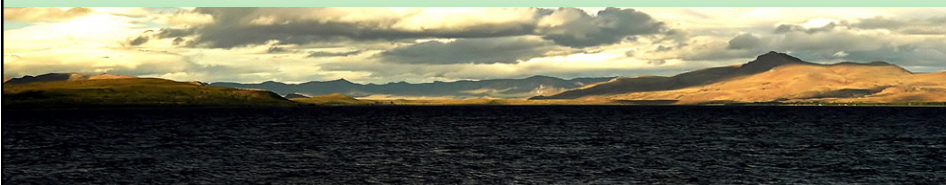
CEE Regional Training of Trainers' Workshop on the
Identification and Documentation of LMOs
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**Presentation Outline**
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Part I: Overview

**Part II: The Role of Customs Officials
and the Relevant Information
They Need**





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Overview

- New global challenge - illegal or unintentional import and export of environmentally sensitive products, e.g. LMOs
- Need for international co-operation to monitor and control cross-border movement of such products in order to protect the environment and human health
- Customs and border-protection officers have a crucial role to play in addressing the challenge

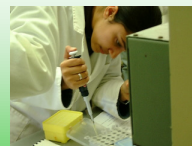


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Overview

• To play an effective role, Customs Officials need to:

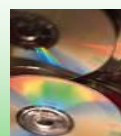
- Know what information to look for and why such information is important
- Know where to find the information
- Know who to contact for specialized assistance



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Role and Responsibilities of Customs Officials

- Ensuring that LMO imports and exports have proper approvals
- Ensuring that LMO shipments are accompanied with proper documentation
- Detecting illegal/unintentional LMO imports and taking appropriate measures

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1. Ensuring proper approvals for LMO imports

- Verify if the shipment has proper import approvals from the CNA; also check BCH for the decision
- Check the decisions posted on the BCH regarding LMOs-FFP approved for domestic use/ marketing

Need to be familiar with:

- The AIA procedure and the domestic decision-making procedures and requirements
- Decisions made in your country on different LMOs to verify whether the LMOs have been approved for import
- Which LMOs your country has subjected to a simplified procedure or exempted from the AIA procedure
- Any bilateral or multilateral agreements/arrangements





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2. Ensuring appropriate documentation

Inspecting documentation accompanying shipments to:

- Verify the documentation corresponds to the actual LMOs in the shipment
- Ensure that the documentation is complete and meets the applicable identification requirements specified in the Protocol and the domestic laws
- Enforce any special handling/packaging requirements



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2. Ensuring appropriate documentation

Need to be with familiar with:

- Identification requirements for different categories of LMOs adopted by COP-MOP
- Any additional documentation and identification requirements in the domestic regulatory framework
- How to access to information on the BCH
- Contact details of CNA & other authorities



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3. Inspecting incoming shipments of LMOs

Inspecting incoming shipments of LMOs to verify the actual content and cross-check the shipment against their documentation

Need to be with familiar with:

- Basic sampling and detection methods
- Who to contact to get specialized services for detection and analysis of samples
- How to access to information on the BCH
- Contact details of CNA & other authorities



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4. Detecting illegal or unintentional import

Detecting and alerting relevant authorities about illegal or unintentional import or export of LMOs

Need to know:

- What type of organisms may be involved
- How the import or export may occur
- How to take samples and detect LMOs
- What to do if you detect an illegal/unintentional import/export
- Rules regarding illegal transboundary movement
- Your country's contact point for notifications of potential unintentional transboundary movements



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5. Reporting to relevant authorities

Reporting the information to the relevant national authorities

- Communicate to the competent national authorities (CNAs) information on LMOs that arrive at a port of entry, including accompanying documentation



Need to be with familiar with:

- The different CNAs in your country
- How to access information in the BCH



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Other Considerations for Customs Officials

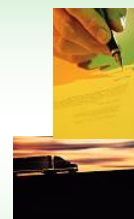
- Customs officials should also familiarise themselves with issues regarding:
 - How to handle confidential information
 - The compliance mechanism under the Protocol and
 - The relationship between the Protocol and other agreements, especially the trade agreements



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Conclusion

- Customs officials, being frontline persons have a unique role to play in regulating the transboundary movement of LMOs, including detecting of possible illegal and unintentional import of LMOs
- Biotechnology and biosafety are very dynamic fields. It is important to keep abreast with new developments
- Use available resources, such as the BCH and maintain close contact with your National Focal Point for the Protocol and the National Competent Authorities

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Protocol website: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety>
Biosafety Clearing-House: <http://bch.cbd.int/>
CNAs: <http://bch.cbd.int/database/contacts/>
NFPs: <http://bch.cbd.int/database/contacts/>

