Workshop for Developing Countries on the Revision of the International Recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics

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Mode of transport
(What to record; How to classify)
(Item 11)

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Mode of transport

1. Current recommendation(s)

IMTS, Rev.1 (para. 148**):** recommended that countries should collect import and export data by mode of transport, broken down into three categories:

- Air;
- Water (of which Sea, Inland waterway);
- Land (Railway, Road, Pipeline)

IMTS, Rev.2 ➔ There is no explicit reference to mode of transport.

2. Result from the 2006 NCDP Questionnaire

From 122 countries or areas:

- 85 percent identify "Air"
- 76 percent identify "Sea"

→ it seems appropriate to review relevant IMTS, Rev.1 recommendations and further elaborate them in IMTS, Rev.3.

3. UNSD observation of 2008 Worldwide consultation:

There is <u>almost universal support</u> (92%, with "No"-answers only 8%) for <u>the proposal to add mode of transport.</u> Yet, there is much less agreement on how mode of transport should be recorded. A <u>clear majority</u> of countries (67%, with "No"-answers 17%) want, that the <u>means of transport at the port of departure/ port of arrival</u> should be recorded. The other options, the recording of predominant mode of transport or multiple mode of transport were rejected by more countries (43% and 53%, respectively) than supported (31% and 25%, respectively).

Additional comments:

- It is suggested to consider transmission lines such as pipelines and cable/wire as a separate mode of transport category.

- It is also requested to address the issue of goods moving under their own power.

4. The Virtual Meeting of the EG-IMTS, Nov 2008:

1. <u>Strongly supported a general recommendation to collect and disseminate mode of transport</u> as additional data dimension of trade data;

2. Agreed that when the <u>general trade</u> system is in use the mode of transport should be recorded as the <u>means of transport when crossing the border/ when entering and leaving the country</u>;

3. Advised that the issue of mode of transport in the case of use of the <u>special trade</u> system appears to <u>require further research</u> although there appears to be a preference for the recording of the means of transport when crossing the border/ when entering and leaving the country;

4. Advised that the recommendation concerning a <u>classification of mode of transport requires further consideration</u> – there seems to be the idea of recommending only a minimum classification for mode of transport (air, water, other) while leaving further breakdowns up to national requirements. Yet, several experts clearly indicated that road and rail should be part of the recommended classification of mode of transport.

Issues for discussion

Comments and suggestions are required:

1.   <u>Classification of the mode of transport</u>: Which category to include?

Initial UNSD proposal:

    1. Air

    2. Sea

    3. Inland waterway

    4. Railway

    5. Road

    6. Transmission lines (pipelines and cables)

    7. Other/ Unknown

What about:

    (i) goods which arrive or depart through their own means (own propulsion) and

    (ii) postal consignments.

Issues for discussion

Comments and suggestions are required:

2. Recording: Any comment on the proposal of recording the mode of transport as the means of transport when crossing the border/ when entering and leaving the country?

    - The case of landlocked countries: should there be an exception, for example the recording of the predominant mode of transport?

3. The case of the Special Trade System: there is a preference for recording of the means of transport when crossing the border/ when entering and leaving the country. Do you have any suggestion?

Thank you for your attention

Gracias !