

Workshop on the Methodology and Data Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

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Agenda item 16: Trade System and Mode of Transport



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Introduction

- IMTS2010 Chapter II: Trade System
 - A. An overview of basic terms
 - B. General trade system
 - C. Special trade system
- IMTS2010 Chapter VII: Mode of Transport

Basic terms: Territories

- Economic territory
 - The area under the effective control of a single government
- Statistical territory
 - Territory with respect to which trade data are being compiled
- Customs territory
 - Based on the boundary of customs territory

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

“...The definition of the statistical territory may or may not coincide with the economic territory or its customs territory...”

Provide a detailed description of their statistical territory and make it publicly available [2.1]

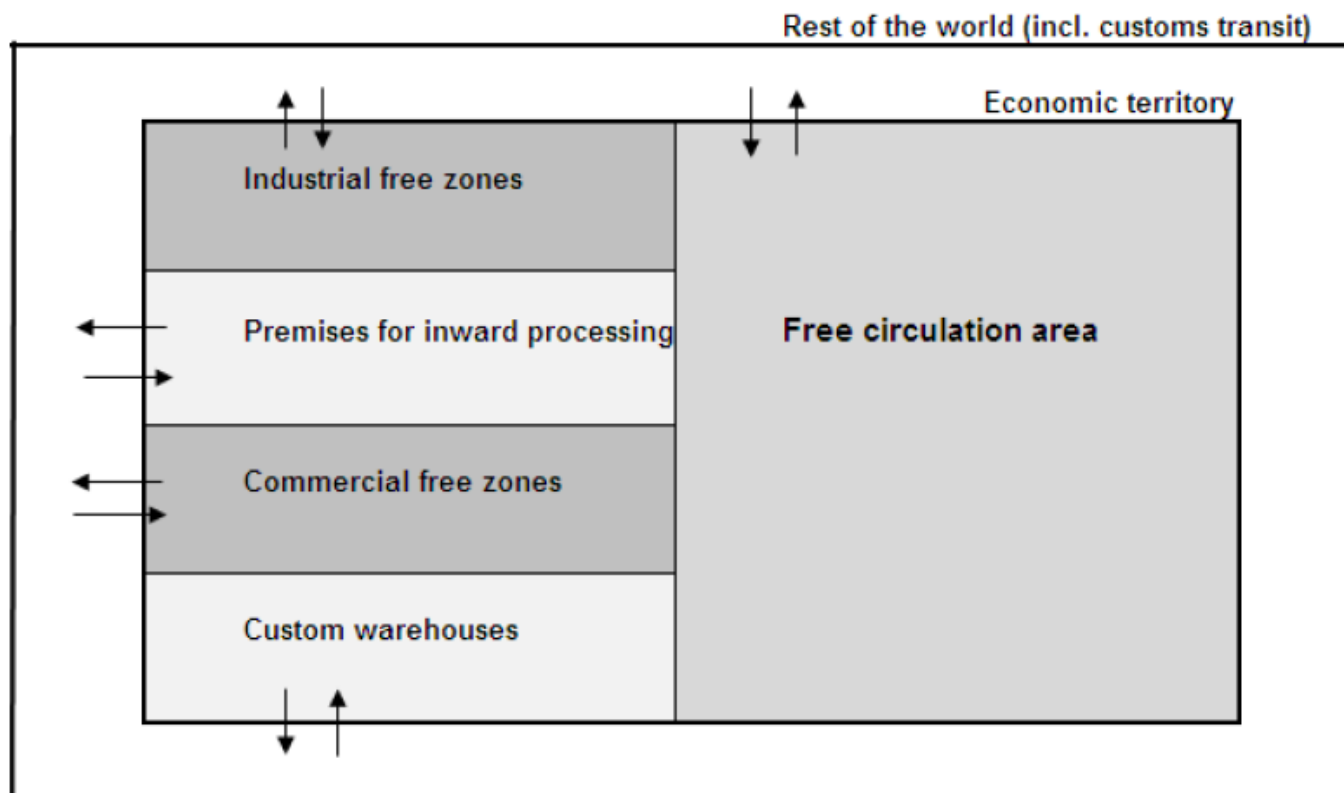
Recommendations

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

- Use the definitions of the customs terms as contained in the annexes of the Revised Kyoto Convention [2.3]
- Make clear whether or not the following territorial elements exists and included in the statistical territory [2.3]
 - Islands;*
 - Territorial waters and continental shelf;*
 - Offshore and outer space installations and apparatus;*
 - Commercial free zones; Industrial free zones;*
 - Customs warehouses;*
 - Premises for inward processing;*
 - Territorial enclaves and exclaves.*
- Define *domestic goods* as goods originating in the economic territory of a country [2.10]

General Trade System

Graph 2.1: Territorial elements and potential imports and exports under the general trade system



Legend: \rightarrow representing imports and exports under the respective trade system.

Trade flows in General Trade System

- General Imports:
 - Imports of foreign goods
 - Re-imports of domestic goods
- *Re-imports* are imports of domestic goods which were previously recorded as exports.
- General Exports:
 - Exports of domestic goods
 - Re-exports of foreign goods
- *Re-exports* are exports of foreign goods which were previously recorded as imports.

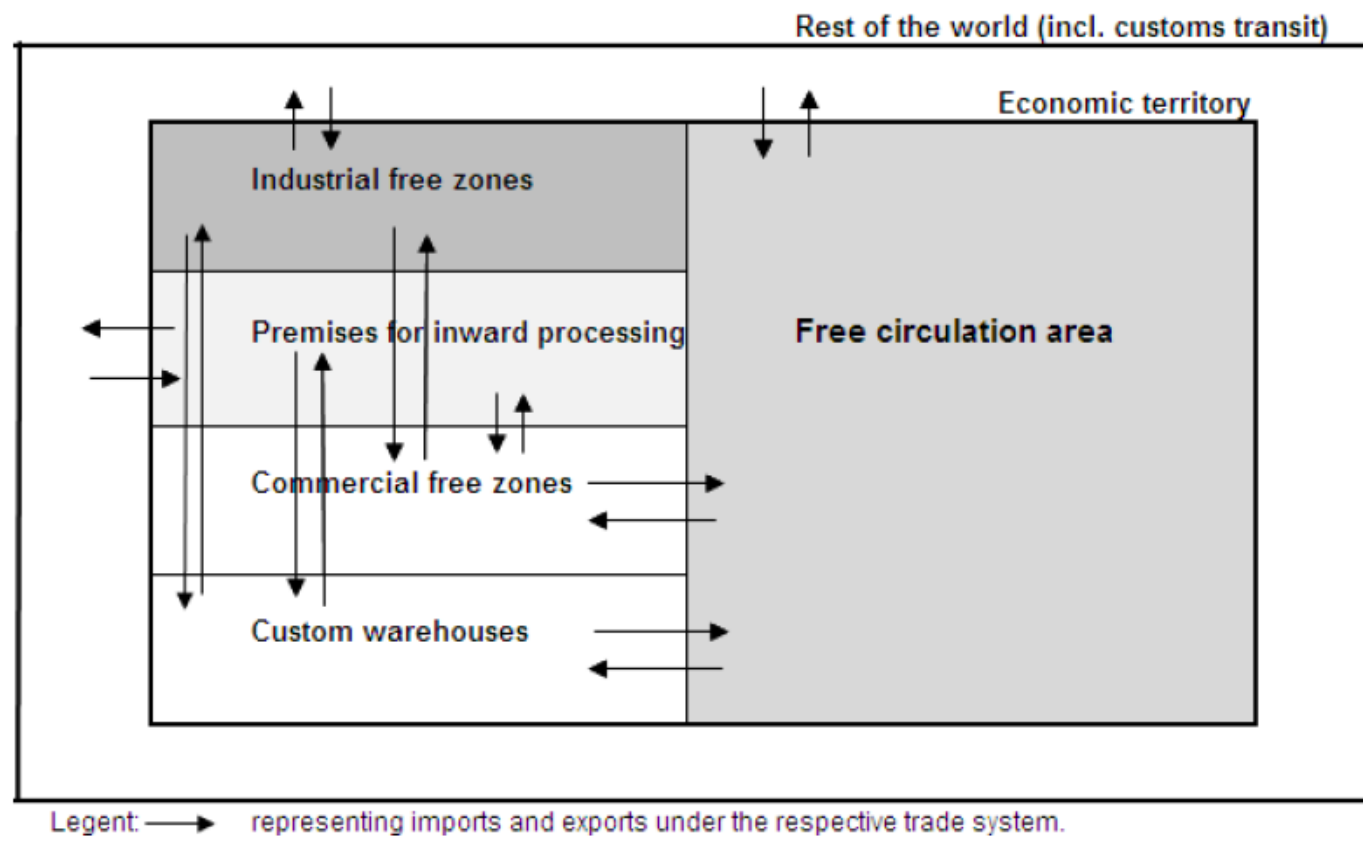
Recommendations

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

- Use all applicable territorial elements when applying general trade system [2.12] (*General trade system is in use when statistical territory coincides with the economic territory*)
- Not only include re-imports in total imports, but also identify them for analytical purposes [2.15]
- Not only include re-exports in total exports, but also identify them for analytical purposes [2.17]
- Add customs procedure to be part of dataset for trade statistics (even if the responsible agency is not customs) [2.18]
- Use general trade system for both imports and exports

Special Trade System

Graph 2.2: Territorial elements and potential imports and exports under the special trade system in its relaxed definition



Disadvantage of special trade system

- Narrows the coverage of the statistics as not all goods are covered → reduce relevancy
- Not uniform application across countries → creates serious incomparability
- Beware!!!
 - Misunderstanding of trade system concept often results in incorrect interpretation of which system is used by country, e.g., a country claims that general trade system is used, but upon further review, in fact, it is special trade system

Mode of Transport

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

- Compile and disseminate IMTS by mode of transport at the most detailed commodity level (as a new data dimension) [7.1]
- The mode of transport which should be recorded is the means of transport used when goods enter or leave [7.1]
- Indicate clearly the contents of the categories used [7.3]
- If countries record multiple mode of transports, provide detailed information in the metadata [7.4]

Mode of Transport (cont.)

IMTS2010

Encouragements:

Use the main categories (1-digit) and, if countries wish to do so, the detailed (2- or 3-digit) categories of the following classification on the right side:

1. Air
2. Water
 - 2.1 Sea
 - 2.2 Inland waterway
3. Land
 - 3.1 Railway
 - 3.2 Road
4. Not elsewhere classified
 - 4.1 Pipelines and cables¹¹⁷
 - 4.1.1 Pipelines
 - 4.1.2 Cables
 - 4.2 Postal consignments, mail or courier shipments
 - 4.3 Self-propelled goods
 - 4.4 Other



Thank you for your attention!