

transmit container information when interrogated by a RFID portal or mobile reader. These e-seals enable Customs to retrieve data on the cargo by scanning the seal chip.

The e-seals are tamper-evident, bringing an additional layer of security: if a seal is tampered it cannot be read or will indicate that it has been tampered. This has reduced the chances of pilferage or theft of cargo during transport, and could also help an exporter to detect pilferage and monitor cargo movements, providing all-round cargo protection.

The e-seals, high security seals, advance cargo information, and the simplification and automation of processes have enhanced the risk management capabilities of Customs, enabling more precise targeting and the facilitation of legitimate trade.

So, decision to replace mechanical seals with electronic sealing devices is a move that enabled the Customs administration to reduce the risk of fraud and security threats while extending higher levels of facilitation to traders.

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MONEY LAUNDERING: IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COUNTERMEASURES ОТМЫВАНИЕ ДЕНЕГ: ВАЖНОСТЬ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ КОНТРМЕР

Картышева Д.А.

Научный руководитель: преподаватель Мойсеенок Н.С.
Белорусский национальный технический университет

Money laundering continues to pose a significant threat to countries and financial systems around the world. It is a fundamental enabler of criminal groups and is closely related to terrorism financing.

Although terrorism financing and money laundering, frequently carried out by drug smugglers, are distinct activities, both raise similar concerns and use many of the same techniques to exploit vulnerabilities in countries' financial systems.

These activities threaten the very foundation of financial institutions and systems, discourage foreign investment, and distort international capital flows.

Significantly, money laundering is the financial livelihood of criminal groups, and therefore enables these groups' violent and harmful activities.

The term money laundering has been applied to the process by which the proceeds of crime are converted into assets which appear to have a legitimate origin so that they can be retained permanently or recycled into further criminal enterprises.

Initially, money laundering was thought to be a problem mainly associated with international drug trafficking. Subsequent trends have demonstrated money laundering was not purely confined to drugs. It was especially prevalent in financial fraud particularly tax evasion. Money laundering is ubiquitous. It can affect financial institutions everywhere.

The main driving force behind transnational organized crime is the high profits that are generated through it. Transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) need to disguise the origin of this illicit money from law enforcement authorities in order to move, place and use the money for their personal use and for the continuance of their criminal operations. TCOs and terrorist organizations engage in myriad criminal activities within the Customs arena, including: narcotics trafficking, weapons smuggling, intellectual property rights (IPR) infringements, human smuggling and trafficking, environmental crime, among many others. TCOs and terrorist organizations face many challenges in giving a legitimate appearance to these illicit proceeds as they attempt to store, move and integrate their illicit funds for personal use and for the perpetuation of their illegal activities. Advances in international banking, the financial services industry and financial technology have afforded these criminals a variety of methods and means for moving and laundering their illicit money.

The movement of illicit money very often crosses international borders, and thereby enters the Customs domain. Hence, Customs authorities have an essential role to play in anti-money laundering activities as they are effectively the "tip of the spear", due to their unique positioning at all border areas.

The WCO established its Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorism Financing Programme in 2018 and has actively championed anti-money laundering efforts around the world for many years. The WCO utilizes its expertise in Customs-centric money laundering to enhance its Members' ability to fight money laundering by raising awareness; developing training programmes, tools and information-sharing platforms; advocating best practices; and promoting the dedicated space for the closed user group "FinCRIME On-line Library" on the CENcomm platform, which includes a seizures database.

Thus, money laundering is a serious threat. It has devastating consequences for the financial system and for national security, since it provides funds for

terrorists, drug traffickers, arms dealers, and criminal groups. Criminals can rely on dirty money to capitalize their legal entities with criminal proceeds, which distorts competition between legal and illegal enterprises. Despite efforts to implement measures to combat money laundering, the international community and individual countries are continually confronted by new trends in money-laundering activities that may make such measures outdated and ineffective.

It is clear that legislation by itself is by no means enough to effectively combat money laundering. A comprehensive and integrated strategy is required. One of the main goals is to make crime less profitable by confiscating criminal proceeds. Moreover, international assistance is essential for the fight against money-laundering operations undertaken at the transnational level. Bilateral agreements tailored to specific circumstances are the most-effective means to accelerate investigative and judicial processes and overcome difficulties and delays.

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FEATURES OF THE ACTIVITIES OF A CUSTOMS CARRIER ОСОБЕННОСТИ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ ТАМОЖЕННОГО ПЕРЕВОЗЧИКА

Козел А.А., Крейдич В.С.

Научный руководитель: преподаватель Мойсеенок Н.С.
Белорусский национальный технический университет

Customs activity is one of the most difficult sections of legislation. It is difficult for importers and exporters, on their own, to grasp all the subtleties of a huge number of rules, to foresee all the nuances that may arise during the transportation of goods.