



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES



Collaboration between WCO and OIE

**Future collaboration with Focal
Points levels to fight against falsified
veterinary products**

Summary

- Brief on WCO
- Collaboration between Customs and other Government Agencies
- Single Window/One-Stop Shop Clearance
- WCO Coordinated Actions
- Operation Mirage
- Future Collaboration to fight against falsified veterinary products.

Brief on the WCO

- The World Customs Organization (WCO), in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
- Today, the WCO represents **183 Customs administrations** across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade. As the global centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters and can rightly call itself the voice of the international Customs community

Collaboration of Customs with other Government Agencies

- Customs allows clearance of goods, means of transport and passengers at borders.
- However, prior to release, clearance has also to be sought from Other Government Agencies(OGA).
- WCO advises its members to work in close collaboration with the OGAs to facilitate trade
- WCO recommends the use of Coordinated Border Management and Single Window Environment.

Single Window Environment

- Is defined as a “cross border, ‘intelligent’, facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information, mainly electronic, with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export and transit related regulatory requirements”
- Also called One-Stop Shop Clearance whereby importer or exporter obtain clearance from Customs and all OGAs at one place instead of losing time going from one office to the other.

WCO Coordinated Actions

- WCO works in collaboration with its members, OGAs and International Agencies to help in fighting the scourge of counterfeit, illicit and sub-standard products.
- Operation Mirage on combating counterfeiting and piracy was organized from 10-19 Sept 2018 whereby 16 Customs Administrations from across the African Continent participated with the collaboration of the INTERPOL, WHO, OIE, the Joint Container Cargo Control Units(JCCCU)

Operation Mirage

- **Participants**: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo.
- Prior to the Operation, National Experts from each Customs Administrations attended a Workshop held in Cotonou from 5 to 7 Sept.
- Training facilitated by WCO IPR Experts, Right Holders of various brands and representatives of WHO, OIE and INTERPOL.

Outcome of Operation Mirage

- Main cases relate to Pharmaceuticals and Medicines.
- 350 consignments were stopped and examined.
- Out of 252,958,124 units controlled, 62,882,416 were seized.
- This included 20 consignments of Veterinary Products which were examined.
- Out of 4,303,214 units controlled, 1,547,008 were seized.

Collaboration with OGAs

- In Nigeria, Customs worked in collaboration with the Local Health Authorities and the National Standards Office.
- Examination of goods was carried out jointly by Customs, the NAFDAC and the SON in the Ports of Lagos(Tincan and Appapa) in Nigeria.
- Seizure of pharmaceuticals were effected by Customs and handed over to the NAFDAC for disposal.

Interesting Cases

- Counterfeit Antibiotics in Nigeria. A container of pharmaceuticals was jointly examined by Customs and NAFDAC and was found to contain undeclared antibiotics. Same were seized and handed over to the NAFDAC for disposal.
- Suspicious packaging for veterinary products in Benin. Together with undeclared veterinary products, a huge amount of empty packaging with long expiry date were found.
- This shows a new trend in counterfeiting. It would seem that if an old product is not sold by the official expiry date, it could be re-packaged in fresh packaging bearing a new expiry date.

Lessons Learnt

- Infringers and Counterfeiters do not care for the health and safety of consumers and animals. Their only motive is to make money by supplying sub-standard products or products having no active ingredient.
- Customs and OGAs should work in close collaboration to track down the infringers and counterfeiters.

Coordination

- Operational Coordination Unit(OCU).
- A representative of the WCO Secretariat coordinated the Operation in close collaboration with the respective Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices(RILOs) and with a representative from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). The OCU was based in Cotonou (Benin) for the duration of the Operation.

Collaboration

- The role of the RILO was to contact countries for follow-up of results, as well as further action on and follow-up of Alerts sent to countries not participating in the Operation. In addition, the representative of SACU coordinated the follow up of Alerts sent to Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Future Collaboration

- Timely exchange of information among Focal Points levels and setting up of a platform similar to the RILO.
- Close collaboration between OIE and WCO.
- Active participation of Veterinary Services in future WCO Operations targeting counterfeit, illicit and sub-standard pharmaceuticals and veterinary products. To be involved in the physical examination of targeted consignments.

Question Time

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Thanks

- Thank you for your kind attention.
- Best regards from
Mr Ootam Persand
Team Leader, MRA Customs Department
WCO Technical Operational Adviser on IPR

Email: ootam.persand@mra.mu
ootampersand@gmail.com