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BORDER CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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The Bulgarian National Border Police have overall responsibility for border security including control of hazardous materials. The mission of the Border Police is to detect and halt crimes and violations at the Border Crossing Points (BCP) .

BCP control procedures for sensitive materials, weapons, munitions, dual-use goods and hazardous goods are derived from national legislation and from ratified international norms, treaties and conventions. To interdict and reduce the illicit transfer of hazardous materials, including WMD capabilities, the national legislation is harmonized with international standards, such as the Wassenaar Agreements, the European Union Control List and Munitions List..

The Border Control measures of hazardous materials consist of passport and visa control, Customs inspections and similar inspection techniques. This multi-tiered approach provides a series of checks without undue time constraints for entry and exit.

The Border Police have the following responsibilities:

- Border Police Control of documentation, vehicles and cargo;
- Border Police Supervision of all agencies and functions at the BCP;

Two principles guide Border Police operations:

- Objective principle;
- Linear principle;

The Objective principle consists of an evaluation of factual circumstances concerning personnel background history, cargo information and shipper information. Examples

follow of what this entails. Irregularities, suspect manifested items, or destinations lead to more thorough inspection processes:

- Person on record -A person who has a record of conviction or punishment for any type of violation, or has performed illicit activities with hazardous materials, or other controlled or sensitive goods;
- Responsible person – this is a person or a legal entity regardless of citizenship or nationality who holds a permit for activities with hazardous materials, including trans-border transportation.
- Means of transport – this is a vehicle with a trailer or a semi-trailer; a vessel, including a barge, a rail engine, a rail motor or an airplane. These means of transport are used for illicit trans-border shipments of hazardous materials or for permitted and legal shipments of the same materials.
- Hazardous materials – these are goods, equipment and substances such as weapons, (including WMD), munitions (including munitions of mass destructions); weapons and munitions sources (including such of mass destruction), weapons spare parts, semi-manufactured goods and precursors for the production of weapons and munitions (including such of mass destruction);
- Risky cargo – bulk, liquid or containing goods which are a subject to control in order to avoid contamination with radioactive, toxic or lethal substances.

The Border Police Supervision is implemented based on the linear principle following the basic trans-border transport types:

- Vehicular – the supervision is implemented at BCPs located on international roads, river ferryboats, Ro-Ro terminals and seaports;
- Rail – supervision is implemented at BCPs located at border train stations and at ports with rail-ferryboat terminals.
- Air – Supervision is implemented at BCPs located at international airports;
- Ship – Supervision is implemented at BCPs located at international river and seaports;
- Container – supervision is implemented at each BCP for goods and cargoes shipped in containers.

Border Police Control and Border Police Supervision are implemented by the following control procedures: check of personal documentation (passport, drivers license, identification card), vehicular documentation (registration, insurance), cargo manifests and physical inspection of vehicles and cargoes.

These control procedures have the following purposes:

- to identify suspicious activity using the Police records;
- to detect potential violations and falsified or invalid documents;

For suspicious activities the Border Police Inspector exercises the instructions in the Police records and for potential violations additional checks are conducted.

In a case of detected violations or highly probable crimes or violations with hazardous materials found while implementing Border Police Control or Border Police Supervision, the following urgent measures are taken:

- Immediate isolation of the hazardous materials within the area of the Border Crossing Point;
- Notification to emergency response teams to provide additional safety measures and transportation of the hazardous materials out of the area of the BCP to a specialized depot;
- The persons or vehicles related to the case are detained and investigation procedures started;
- Continued investigation, drafting and submission of a claim file to the prosecutors' office;
- Border Police assume command of the incident scene and control of all response agencies.

Border Control (including hazardous materials) is planned and regulated in the same manner as other police or law enforcement actions. The procedure includes the following tasks:

1. Collection of information for violations and crimes with hazardous materials;
 - information about detected cases in Bulgaria or information from foreign sources;
 - information for potential cases

-information for suspect cases that have been successfully completed;

2. Evaluation of the collected information in order to determine the following:

-reliability of the information;

-needs and sufficiency;

-classification;

3. Analysis of the classified information in order to detect the following:

-logical relationships between different signals and detected cases;

-related elements of potential and suspect cases;

-favorable factors for effective violations of the regime.