



The Customs Clearance of Imports from Countries Outside the EU

Because of recurrent problems with goods from outside the EU that have not passed customs clearance, we have prepared a basic overview of what is required by customs law:

1. **Goods originating outside the EU must be declared to the customs authorities!**
2. According to the customs rules, "goods" means all movable property.
3. Customs clearance is done at the first customs office in the EU to which the goods have been delivered – e.g. goods from the USA or Canada arrive in the EU in Cologne, Germany or in Paris, France.
4. **The proposal for customs clearance must be accompanied by the necessary documents – i.e. the final invoice of the supplier, incl. the price of transport and packaging.**
5. On the basis of a complete and properly documented proposal, the customs authorities examine the goods.
6. The customs office processes the goods, i.e. decides whether to release the goods for the proposed customs circulation.

Unless this procedure is observed, the goods must not be handled; otherwise, a participant in the customs procedure (IOCB) is subject to sanctions on the part of the customs authority. If any of the steps above are missing, the goods must be subsequently declared at the first customs office through which they arrived in the EU, **which usually takes several months.**

Since the number of the cases of subsequent declaration has been on the increase, we risk losing the reputation of a problem-free importer. The loss of simplified customs clearance means the prolongation of the procedure from days to weeks.

For the acceleration of the customs clearance, it is advisable to communicate with the Purchasing Department, which will ensure the necessary agenda and documents.

For more information, please contact Anna Csabová – Ext. 499.

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Dr. Zdeněk Hostomský
Director