

FLEGIT SYSTEM – OVERVIEW

What is FLEGIT

- The EU FLEGIT is an IT system managed by the European Commission to be used as a central repository of all FLEGT licences intended for the EU countries.
- The EU FLEGIT system is modelled on TRACES and is a component of this wider certificate management system developed and managed by DG SANTE.
- The EU FLEGIT is designed to support the existence of domestic systems for local (national) management of FLEGT licences.
- The EU FLEGIT is a web application with most of the functionalities available to the user interactively through a regular web browser (Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, etc.).
- The EU FLEGIT is also a web services provider, available for domestic systems, to allow M2M (Machine-to-Machine) communication in order to automatically exchange FLEGT licences information.
- From both interactive and M2M interface, the EU FLEGIT system will handle various processes like creation, validation and approval of FLEGT licences and the consultation and retrieval of clearance information for a licence.
- These processes are performed by allowing various users different functionality depending on their roles within different organisations:
 1. Licensing Authorities in exporting countries,
 2. FLEGT Competent Authorities in EU Members States (MS CAs),
 3. Customs office in the EU, and
 4. EU importers and their agents (only for the user interface, not M2M)

Relationship with Customs Systems

There are two possibilities

- a) The MS CAs /Customs invest time and effort in a full M2M integration of the FLEGIT system with the Customs system. This would allow organisations that manage licences at their national level in an IT system to communicate the information to Customs without the need of keying in information twice, or
- b) Customs use the limited but sufficient EU FLEGIT user functionality. For example, to consult the licence content or its clearance status. **However when customs clears the goods covered by a FLEGT licence** FLEGT Competent Authorities will need to make sure that this is entered on the FLEGIT system.

Possibility a) could be desirable in Member States where high volumes of FLEGT licences are being processed. In Member States where volumes are small option b) could be used. In any event it is accepted that even where a decision is taken to opt for full integration of FLEGIT with Customs system, some time will have to be allowed for systems development and coding , in which event option b) might have to apply from the outset.

Main objective: Avoid fraud and duplication of licences

Use of FLEGIT by all MS CAs will make sure that fraud and duplication of licences is avoided. Additionally it will contribute to the compilation of statistics/reports as requires under EU rules.

Tasks to be performed in advance of FLEGT going live

MSCA's and the Commission need to carry out a number of tasks in advance for an effective launch of FLEGT as set out in the following task list;

Task List

- Beginning of pilot testing phase for MS CAs scheduled for December 2015-January 2016.
- Involve Customs in pilot testing phase from mid-January 2016.
- Advance publicity by both the Commission and MS CAs for importers and their agents that the use of FLEGIT will soon be possible.
- Publicity on procedures for registration on ECAS needs to be provided to all potential users.
- Contact points for day to day operations need to be established between the MS CAs and Indonesia and Commission since this will not be supported by FLEGIT (in its initial version).
- Training for all users in MS CAs and Customs is foreseen from April 2016 on.
- User manual for FLEGIT will be prepared, including a section on frequently asked questions.

NOTE: Please note that it is very important that all MS CAs establish close contacts with Customs in this period (in those Member States where Customs are not CA's).

The Commission will also organise a **FLEGIT dedicated session** on the morning of 12 February 2016 (which will include points on FLEGIT system, but also readiness to receive FLEGT licenses from Indonesia) in general. It will take place in **DG Environment, Avenue de Beaulieu 5, Brussels (ROOM BU-5 0/C) on 12 February from 9:30 – 13:00**. The Commission has asked MS CAs to consider inviting custom colleagues to this training session.