

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS
UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION, 1975)**

TIR Carnets invalidated by the guarantee chain

Note transmitted by the International Road Transport Union

Purpose:

This document has been prepared by the IRU at the occasion of the 124th session of the WP30 (2 - 5 February 2010) in response to the request made during their last session at which time IRU was asked to present the procedures applied towards the invalidation of TIR carnets by the international guarantee chain (see report ECE/TRANS/WP.30/246).

Basis for the invalidation of certain TIR carnets by the IRU

For many years, the IRU, which is responsible for ensuring the proper operation of the guarantee chain, has implemented the most efficient and speedy means of informing the customs authorities of the details of TIR Carnets involved in an incident which could lead to a risk of being used inappropriately, hereinafter called INVALIDATED CARNETS.

The purpose of this information, which is transmitted to the customs authorities, is to enable them to take all necessary measures in the framework of their own risk management program in order to prevent the use of these TIR carnets.

The incidents leading to an invalidation of a TIR carnet could be one of the following:

- carnets lost by their holder,
- carnets stolen from their holder,
- carnets destroyed during use (accident for example)
- carnets kept by a third party and therefore not returned to their holder (retained by a customs agent for example).
- carnets issued to a holder which then was either suspended or revoked from the TIR regime
- carnets lost by an issuing association before being issued to a holder (en route by mail to a local association for example).

CUTE-Wise has been updated to display the type of incident which lead to the invalidation of the carnet.

The level of risk varies depending on whether the carnet was lost after being used (TIR transport was terminated) or while being used (low risk as the carnet cannot be used again) or unused (high risk, especially if the carnet has not reached its expiration date).

IRU Procedure and transmission of information to the customs

In order to supply information about the invalidated carnet as quickly as possible the same day the incident has occurred on the carnet, the IRU has implemented the following procedure:

1. Each TIR carnet holder has a contractual obligation to inform its issuing association of any incident which has occurred with a TIR carnet as soon as the holder has been informed or is aware of this incident.
2. Each issuing association also has a contractual obligation to inform the IRU immediately by fax or email with the details of the TIR carnet for which there has been an incident reported by any of its Holders.
3. The IRU proceeds with the data capture of the referenced carnets in the central database within two hours following receipt of the request for invalidation from the issuing association.
4. The IRU informs the customs authorities by four different means:
 - Email : the list of carnets which present a high risk are sent by email to TIR contact points as well as to customs officers who have requested it
 - CUTE-Wise¹, is updated three times a day, at 11am, 2pm and 7pm (Geneva time). Customs officials querying the status of the carnets will obtain the updated status of the invalidated TIR carnet. The lists of invalidated carnets that can be downloaded from CUTE-Wise are updated accordingly.
 - SafeTIR in real time, which allows the customs systems through a computer to computer automatic query, to obtain the validation of the status of a TIR carnet in real time
 - Automatic download from a shared IRU directory: customs authorities who have installed a secured line with the IRU have access to files containing the invalidated carnets and thus can download them automatically.

Example : invalidation of TIR carnet XB YYY47162

TIR Carnet XB YYY47162 was issued to Holder RUS/053/XXX961 by the association ASMAP on 15 December 2009 with a validity date up to 13 February 2010. It was stolen on 17 December 2009 from the Holder's premises.

1. RUS/053/XXX961 informed ASMAP by telephone at 4pm. This case presents a high risk for misuse because the carnet was stolen intentionally and can still be used.
2. ASMAP filled out the required form and sent it to the IRU by email at 5pm.
3. The IRU invalidated the carnet at 5.30pm in its internal database.
4. Information was transmitted to the customs :
 - Email: all customs administrations of the Contracting Parties were informed of this invalidation by email the same night at 6pm.
 - CUTE-Wise was updated during the 7pm batch. The carnet is given "invalidated" status as of 7pm when the status of the carnet is consulted.
 - SafeTIR real time : the customs who had implemented the SafeTIR real time had access to the updated status as of 7pm.
 - Automatic download: the updated file containing this TIR carnet can be downloaded on IRU's folder at 7pm.

Future measure being implemented by IRU to further reinforce the system:

- The lists of invalidated carnets will be limited to carnet numbers higher than 51'000'000 because carnets with numbers lower than this were officially taken out of circulation as of 1 October 2006². Expected implementation date for this step: March 2010.

¹ See Annex

² See ECE/TRANS/WP.30/226 # 31 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/234 # 37, as well as <http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/news/wp30-120406.html>

Carnet Data :

The annual number of invalidated carnets is between 2000 and 6000 per year, versus approximately 3 million carnets issued on average.

The category of at-risk carnets varies between 1000 and 2600 carnets³.

³ The list of at-risk carnets, see in annex the CUTE Wise section, only contains the unused carnets for which the expiration date has not been reached. The carnets for which the expiration date has been reached are taken out of this list, allowing a better look at the carnets most at risk.

Annex

CUTE-Wise

CUTE-Wise is an application provided by the IRU which enables the customs administrations to see the status of TIR carnets just as they appear in the IRU database, in two different ways. This application can be requested free of charge from the IRU by returning the attached form. As of today, the IRU has delivered access rights to CUTE-Wise for approximately 3'000 people, mainly from Customs Administrations.

Information available in CUTE-Wise :

- Details of the life cycle of each TIR carnet. Simply enter the TIR carnet number for each invalidated TIR carnet, to see details of the invalidation and current status of the carnet.
-

The screenshot shows the CUTE-Wise v2.3 application interface. The browser window title is "CUTE-Wise v2.3 - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: [http://apps1.iru.org/CuteWise2V3/\(S\(412g55kzvdxyewpa55h45\)\)/Main.htm](http://apps1.iru.org/CuteWise2V3/(S(412g55kzvdxyewpa55h45))/Main.htm). The interface includes a navigation bar with buttons for "Consultation Of TIR Carnet Data", "Download Lists Of Invalid TIR Carnets", and "CUTE - Wise User Guide". The IRU logo is visible in the top right corner.

The main form contains the following fields and data:

TIR Carnet Number	<input type="text" value="XB62374540"/>	NEW SEARCH	
Issuing Country ISO Alpha 3	<input type="text" value="TUR"/>	Name	<input type="text" value="TURKEY"/>
Issuing Association	<input type="text" value="TR TOBB"/>	Language Used On Yellow Manifest	<input type="text" value="TUR"/>
Number Of Pages	<input type="text" value="14"/>	Date Of Issuance Of The TIR Carnet To The Issuing Association	<input type="text" value="28.09.09"/>
Date Of Issuance Of The TIR Carnet To The Holder	<input type="text" value="23.11.09"/>		
INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE TIR CARNET HOLDER			
Status Of The TIR Carnet	INVALID TIR CARNET - LOST		
	UNUSED		
	NOT EXPIRED		
Expiry Date	<input type="text" value="22.01.10"/>	Date of Invalidation by the IRU	<input type="text" value="07.01.10"/>
Name Of The Holder	<input type="text" value="TUR/042/840"/>	Holder ID Number	<input type="text" value="TUR/042/840"/>
IRU Comments	<input type="text" value="NO IRU COMMENTS"/>		
Number Of Customs Records	<input type="text" value="NO RECORDS PROCESSED YET"/>		

Two yellow callout boxes on the right side of the screenshot point to specific areas of the interface:

- The top callout box, labeled "TIR carnet history", points to the search fields (TIR Carnet Number, Issuing Country, Issuing Association, Number of Pages, Date of Issuance, and Language Used).
- The bottom callout box, labeled "Invalidation details", points to the "INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE TIR CARNET HOLDER" section, specifically the status and expiry information.

- Download the list of invalidated carnets with 3 different options (see below) in 4 formats and in 4 languages in order to download them into the central customs systems and therefore allow access to all concerned.

The screenshot displays the 'CUTE-Wise v2.3' web application in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The main content area is titled 'GLOBAL LIST OF INVALID TIR CARNETS'. It features three distinct download sections, each with a 'Select The Format' dropdown (set to 'Text / No Header') and a 'Select The Language' dropdown (set to 'English'). Each section includes a 'DOWNLOAD' button and a help icon (?). The sections are: 1) 'List of all invalid carnets' (highlighted in a yellow box at the top right); 2) 'List containing only the unused invalid carnets which have not reached the expiry date' (highlighted in a yellow box in the middle right); 3) 'List containing only the lost/stolen carnets invalidated before being issued to a holder, and which for this reason do not have an expiry date indicated in section 1 of the cover page, and which therefore can be used at any moment.' (highlighted in a yellow box in the bottom right). Below these sections, there are two more download options under the heading 'LISTS OF DETAILLED TIR CARNETS UNUSED AND WITHIN THEIR EXPIRY DATE', one for 'List Of TIR Carnets Invalidated After Being Issued To A Holder' and one for 'List Of TIR Carnets Invalidated Before Being Issued To A Holder'. At the bottom of the page, a note states: 'THE DOWNLOADED FILES CONTAIN TIR CARNET NUMBERS ABOVE 25 000 000'.

CUTE WISE REQUEST FORM

- Customs Administration
 Association

TO BE RETURNED TO THE IRU

Attention: tirorders@iru.org

Fax: (+41 22) 918 27 94

USER DETAILS (exact address where the system will be installed)
NAME:
FIRST NAME:
ADDRESS:
Tel:
Fax:
E-mail:

Name and address of the Manager responsible:
Delivery mechanism used: INTERNET
E-mail address:

Accesses for Users (if you need more accesses, please fill in a separate list)
First name, last name, e-mail address:
First name, last name, e-mail address:
First name, last name, e-mail address:
First name, last name, e-mail address:
Comments:

Date:

Location:

Signature
Manager Responsible
(In full)
