



---

# Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) – A Global Customs Enforcement System

---

URL: <https://195.99.88.100/CEN>

## 1. CEN- Reliable and Secure Information Pool for Customs Enforcement

Intelligence is a vital element of enforcement for Customs administrations. However, it cannot be produced without gathering a critical mass of information and data which has to be evaluated and analyzed before being transformed into trends and risk indicators. In order to support Customs enforcement community around the world in producing and exchanging intelligence, the World Customs Organization (WCO) has developed a network for gathering data and information which also acts as a central depository for enforcement-related information. This global network is known as the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN).

The internet based system can be used in a timely, reliable and secure manner with direct access available 24 hours a day. It uses effective database protection norms. Encryption technology is introduced to protect communication and data transfers. Only authorized users have access to the CEN. A login ID and password are required to access the system, which are granted on request of members.

Three different levels of access can be granted currently:

- a. **Limited Access (CWS-CEN Website):** grants access to the CWS and the Concealment Picture Database (CPDb) only
- b. **Read Only Access (RO):** grants access to information available on CEN database without the possibility to modify/feed it;
- c. **Unlimited Access:** grants access to all functions of the CEN system, including data entry

## 2. Multi-functioned Applications Ensure Varying Needs

a. **CEN Database:** a database of Customs seizures and offences, classified under 13 different product headings:

- Drugs
- Tobacco
- Beverages
- CITES (endangered species of flora and fauna)
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR-counterfeiting and piracy)
- Precursors
- Tax and duty evasion
- Weapons and explosives
- Currency
- Nuclear materials
- Hazardous materials
- Pornography/Paedophilia
- Other prohibitions and restrictions (works of art, stolen vehicles, anabolic, steroids, etc.)

(case reporting and input to CEN Database) © WCO CEN

A heading for ozone depleting substance (ODS) will be added to CEN Database shortly.

b. **CEN website (CWS):** a website containing alerts about enforcement-related issues and intelligence:

The CEN website comprises a Reference System, Alert Messages, Situation Sheets, Dedicated RILO pages (including bulletins and reports), links to other organizations, Customs media releases etc. It is constantly updated and fed with vital Customs information.

**WELCOME**  
to the Web site of the CEN 'Customs Enforcement Network'

---

[Procedures for granting access to CEN and New Access Request Form](#)  
[Procedure for creation and distribution of alert messages](#)  
**Events calendar** 26/01/2010  
[Calendar of WCO Meetings](#) 21/01/2010

---

**Latest Alert: Monday, 1 February 2010**



**Alert 02/2010** In 2009 in the Netherlands Customs reported a significant increase of seizures of herbal mixtures of Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Malaysian and Indian ayurvedisch origin for medical treatment. These consignments were seized because some of the components (plants and woods) fell in CITES-regulations...



**Alert 01/2010** Monday 11th January 2010 at GFL Charles Airport Castries, St. Lucia, Customs officer utilizing his canine (Julian) identified a carton, enroute, from Micoud, St. Lucia to the London, United Kingdom VIA United Parcels Express. The freight was cash paid. Acting on the canine's strong indication the parcel was opened and x-rayed. X-Ray images revealed no irregularities inside the car part (brake booster)...

(Alerts for restricted plant and animal uploaded to CEN website) © WCO CEN

### **c. Concealment Picture Database (CPDb): a database enabling Customs officers to view exceptional concealment methods and exchange x-ray pictures**

The CPDb is composed of pictures illustrating exceptional concealment methods. X-ray images are also available and can be used for training purposes. A search tool is also applied in the database, which provides a direct link to full details on single cases, where available. (These functions only work for unlimited and read-only users.)



(A case of waste smuggling reported with pictures in CPDb) ©WCO CEN

### **d. CENcomm: a communication application facilitating cooperation and communication between CEN users and Customs services at the international level**

As a web based communication system, CENcomm permits a closed user group of officers to communicate via encrypted channels during any Customs operation or joint Customs operation involving other law enforcement agencies. Email management and information storage are its two key features. It facilitates the exchange and use of data in a timely, reliable and secure manner with direct access available 24 hours a day.

Global and regional operations on combating illegal cross border movement of environmentally sensitive commodities could be coordinated through CENcomm.

## **3. Strongly connected network and Professional team keep it well maintained**

### **a. WCO RILO network**

The CEN system electronically links all Customs administrations through the WCO's network of global Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO). These RILOs contribute to the CEN by gathering national information and reporting the data into the system. Vice versa, RILOs reap benefit by using the common database to conduct regional or international analyses.

Each participating WCO Member designates a National Contact Point (NCP) of RILO. The NCP inputs national seizures and offenses into CEN system and act as a hub between a national Customs administration, the relevant RILO and the WCO Secretariat. Each national Customs administration decides which level of access should be assigned to its CEN users when applying for access through its National Contact Point.

#### **b. CEN Management Team (CENMaT)**

The CEN Management Team is the official WCO body responsible for overseeing the overall management of the CEN system and report to the WCO Enforcement Committee. CENMaT convenes annually to discuss future developments, further enhancements and policy issues. Using RILO as a Vehicle, national Customs administrations can suggest enhancements to the system.

Many environmental problems are transboundary in nature and quite a lot of provisions laid out in Multilateral Environmental Agreements are trade related. Customs officers are, therefore, burdened with environment-related obligations. This responsibility has been considered when developing this system and is reflected accordingly in CITES and Hazardous materials, as well as the upcoming ODS category. Trade related environmental offenses could be reported to RILO office or RILO National Contact Points in you country for their input to CEN system.

#### **Facts and Figures:**

- ✓ The CEN has been operational since July 2000.
- ✓ It is now used by more than 155 Member administrations of WCO.(2009).
- ✓ More than 2000 Customs officers have been granted access to the system.(2009).
- ✓ Seizure records reported by Members have exceeded 250,000 items in the system as of 2009.
- ✓ The RILO network currently comprises 11 offices covering 6 WCO regions around the world, and the Asia and Pacific region is covered by RILO for Asia and the Pacific that is currently based in Beijing, China.

---

*This fact sheet is based on CEN Manual and WCO CEN Brochure developed by WCO.*

*This fact sheet has been developed by the United Nations Environment Programme, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE) OzonAction, Compliance Assistance Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific region (CAP ROAP), in collaboration with WCO Secretariat and RILO for Asia and the Pacific.*

---