

World ATA Carnet Council (WATAC)

Note to national guaranteeing organizations members of the WCF/ATA international guarantee chain

Operation of the ATA Carnet System in China

Following their report on the operation of the ATA System in China during the last meeting of the World ATA Carnet Council (WATAC), on 6-7 June 2011 in Mexico City (Mexico), the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade/China Chamber of International Commerce (CCPIT/CCOIC) wishes to remind national guaranteeing organizations of some rules applicable to the operation of the ATA System in China.

- Use of ATA Carnets in China

ATA Carnets can be used in China only for 'Fairs and exhibitions' and not for 'commercial samples' or 'professional equipment'. Such Carnets are rejected by the Chinese Customs administration which has asked Customs officials to strengthen their controls.

- Unclear description of goods.

Descriptions of goods in General Lists should be clear enough to be readily understandable by Customs officials. Unclear or handwritten lists may lead to a rejection of Carnets.

- Late re-exportation of goods

Chinese Customs are very strict as regards the time limits they impose for the re-exportation of goods. As stated in the Notification on the implementation of the ATA System in China as of 1st March 1998 (document 550-1/1112 dated 28 January 1998), *"the re-exportation time limit of the goods under cover of ATA Carnets is the time limit stipulated by each Annex of the Convention on Temporary Admission (Istanbul Convention). The re-exportation time limit may be extended with the approval of the Customs."*

It is strongly recommended that holders check the record of the re-exportation time limit endorsed by Customs at the time of entry because application for extension must be made 30 working days prior to the final date of re-exportation. The Chinese Customs administration imposes penalties on Carnet holders not following this provision.

- Vehicles subject to import licenses under Chinese Customs rules and regulations

Vehicles temporarily imported into China under cover of ATA Carnets must be re-exported after the exhibitions or fairs, unless getting an import license issued by the Ministry of Commerce of the P. R. China. Used vehicles or right rudder vehicles need to get approval before temporary importation.

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