



Evaluate your Company's customs risks!

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If your everyday work includes import and export operations and different customs formalities, you will know that several customs related risks can arise during the course of business. These risks might be related to procedural infringements, the execution of customs controls, mistakes in the company's operations, or inefficient internal customs planning.

These risks could be decreased or even be avoided if they were identified in due time. Our recent observations of the ineffective practices employed by certain companies, have made it clear to us that planning customs activities and their possible tax consequences before transactions occur, might be crucial to successful deals.

Therefore, Deloitte suggest that they fill out a self-assessment risk form to evaluate any possible customs related risks for the company. The form includes more than 100 questions, and after answering them, you will be given a score evaluating the overall customs risk level for your company. The commentaries attached to each question will help you to clarify the issue and understand the essence of the question.

Let us give you a few examples:

- *Do you plan sufficiently before entering into a new transaction chain (i.e. do you assess your proposed business partners and the required contractual relationships to avoid risks, or estimate the necessary resources for the transactions)?*
- *Has any customs authority audited or inspected your company during the last two years?*
- *Do you use the services of a customs broker or other professional customs specialist?*
- *Do you use an offshore company in any of your transactions?*

For further information regarding the self-assessment risk questionnaire, please contact either Martins Tols, a Deloitte Tax department manager, or Kristine Valdniece our customs consultant.

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