

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
(UNECE)

TIR HANDBOOK



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



UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 2002

NOTE

Only the text which is kept in custody by the Secretary General of the United Nations in his capacity as depositary of the TIR Convention constitutes the authoritative text of the TIR Convention. Therefore, the Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention are advised to base their national legislation on the authoritative legal text of the TIR Convention and not on this publication.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

TIR HANDBOOK ^{*/}

The present publication has been prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the TIR secretariat in accordance with a request made by the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention, 1975 at its sixth session held in October 1983. The Committee had decided that a TIR Handbook should be issued containing the text of the TIR Convention, 1975, relevant comments made on specific provisions and other useful information for Customs authorities and transport operators.

This edition of the TIR Handbook, which replaces the fourth edition published in 1999, contains three major sections:

The first section describes the TIR Customs transit system, its coverage, objective and functioning and analyses possible future developments.

The second section contains the complete text of the TIR Convention, 1975, as of **12 May 2002**. The lay-out of this section basically follows the structure of the TIR Convention, 1975. However, Explanatory Notes contained in Annex 6 and Annex 7, Part III of the Convention have been placed with the provisions in the Convention to which they relate (with the exception of the sketches contained in Annex 6).

Comments are also placed with the provisions of the Convention to which they refer. Comments contained in the TIR Handbook are not legally binding for Contracting Parties of the TIR Convention, 1975. They are, however, important for the interpretation, harmonization and application of the Convention as they reflect the opinion of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975 and of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), as is indicated in connection with each comment.

The third section provides information on the application of the TIR Convention, 1975, contains the text of adopted resolutions and recommendations related to the TIR Convention, 1975, gives examples of best practises and contains the text of an example authorization and agreement, to be drawn up between competent authorities and national guaranteeing associations, as stipulated in Annex 9, Part I of the TIR Convention, 1975.

^{*/} "TIR" stands for: "Transports Internationaux Routiers".