



Your Guide for procedures on prohibited and restricted items

Policy and legislations division
Tariff and Origin Department





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Introduction

In fulfilment of the UAE strategy, which aims to maintain security and safety, Dubai Customs, being the frontline and the first entry point of all goods to the emirate of Dubai, has developed a number of advanced electronic systems which help protect the society and the economy from illegitimate trade. These systems include one that controls the imported/exported prohibited and restricted items, or the ones on transit. This system complies to local, regional and international legislations and treaties. Also, the corporate website contains awareness information for clients. The Tariff and Origin Department has been assigned to be responsible for the prohibited and restricted items. This guide can serve as a reference to all Dubai Customs clients to help them be aware of the procedures in this regard.

Definitions

Prohibited and restricted items follow a set of procedures and provisions which are followed in importing and exporting goods. These can be amended from time to time on security, health and cultural backgrounds.

- **Prohibited goods:**

are any goods the import or export of which is prohibited under the provisions of the Common Customs Law or any other regulation or law applicable in the State.

Example:

Narcotics of all types are prohibited items and not allowed into the country.

- **Restricted goods:**

are those goods the import or export of which is restricted under the provisions of the Common Customs Law or any other regulation or law applicable in the State, and may only be released subject to the approval of the competent authority.

Example:

medications are restricted goods and can't be released without approval from the relevant authority.

- **Goods that are subject to procedures:**

are goods that should be viewed by the relevant authority to ensure they meet importing or exporting conditions.

Example:

foodstuff need to be checked by municipality before released.

- **Controlling authorities:**

are all authorities that are entitled to take decision on prohibiting, restricting or releasing imported, exported or released goods.

Example:

Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Climate Change & Environment, Dubai Municipality.

General Provisions

- Taking into account the definition of prohibited goods, they can be imported or exported if approved by relevant authorities.
- Restricted goods need approval from relevant authorities and can't be released without showing the approval
- Prohibited and restricted goods that have no approval are impounded and legal procedures will be taken accordingly.
- Goods can't be released if they need standards in place or lab testing until relevant authorities give approvals. They can be released before some procedures taken until the results of standardization or lab tests appear, but a pledge has to be undertaken from the owner of the goods not to use them in anyway before issuance of official approvals.
- Lists of prohibited and restricted goods can be amended or changed following the relevant authorities' legislations and policies.

Roles and responsibilities of Prohibited and Restricted Items Section

- To ensure all provisions of prohibition and restriction of goods are applied in a proper way
- To circulate prohibition and restriction provisions and decisions to all customs centers and ensure proper application.
- To enhance ties of cooperation and partnership with internal and external stakeholders regarding prohibited and restricted goods or those that are subject to certain procedures.
- To review classification of prohibited and restricted goods according to the HS Code.
- To apply, update and activate prohibition and restriction following the articles of the customs tariff on the electronic system of prohibited and restricted goods.
- To update and amend prohibition and restriction of goods on the electronic clearance system of Dubai Customs following rules and provisions applied in this regard.
- To participate in specialized local and international committees, meetings and conferences on prohibited and restricted goods, and goods subject to procedures.
- To collect, categorize and update information needed to ensure full control of different prohibited and restricted goods or goods subject to procedures.
- To take decisions of prohibition and restriction or procedures for unsettled goods at different customs centers.
- To apply and amendments to provisions and articles of prohibition, restriction and procedures to ensure actual application.
- To take part in setting policies and procedures to ensure abidance by regulations and rules on prohibited and restricted goods, and goods subject to procedures.
- To develop high quality services in the field.
- To take suitable reaction in response to whatever comes from the World Customs Organization, The GCC General Secretariat, and the Arab League, especially what is related to prohibited and restricted goods, and goods that are subject to procedures, or any other relevant technical issues.
- To collect, categorize, update and unify provisions and articles and specify the controlling authority and suitable response.

Services provided by prohibition and restriction authorities

Relevant authorities, in accordance with their rules of prohibition and restriction of goods take decisions as follows:

- Following up with the latest amendments and decisions taken on local, regional and international levels.
- Informing the Federal Customs Authority and the local customs departments with any decisions and provisions on prohibition and restriction. Following this, they will categorize these goods on the HS Code and tie them to the e-clearance system.
- Approvals to release restricted goods, or goods that are subject to procedures.

Controlling authorities

Tariff and Origin Department restricts and prohibits goods following resolutions of local and federal controlling authorities:

Federal Authorities	Local Authorities in Dubai
Ministry of Health and Prevention	Dubai Police
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment	Dubai Municipality
Ministry of Interior	Dubai Civil Aviation Authority
Ministry of Defence	
Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation	
TRA	
National Media Council	
Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology	
Kimberly Process Office	
Coast Guard	



List of prohibited and restricted items

Department of Tariff and Origin classified different prohibited and restricted items following the unified customs tariff and the HS Code where they were classified in categories as follows:

Some categories are:

Live animals, plants, pesticides and fertilizers
Weaponry, ammunition and fireworks
Medications and medical equipment
Media products and printed materials
Nuclear products
New vehicles tyres/ e-cigarettes and electronic hookah
Wireless communication devices
Alcoholic drinks
Foodstuff/cosmetics and personal care products/ chemicals
Rough diamond

To learn more about the categories and the controlling authorities please visit the following link:
<https://www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae/en/eServices/ServicesForIndividuals/ViewCustomsInformation/Pages/Prohibited-and-Restricted-Goods.aspx>

For enquires on prohibited and restricted goods please visit the following link:
<https://www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae/en/eServices/ServicesForIndividuals/CustomsClearance/Pages/RequestCustomsOpinion.aspx>

Customs tariff and its role in identifying prohibited and restricted goods

The Tariff and Origin Department is in charge of commodity description and coding and it specifies customs tariff accordingly. Customs tariff is vital in risk management and control of prohibited and restricted goods as it ties all commodities to the unified customs tariff according to the HS Code, which makes it easier to identify and access.

Governance and role of customs in prohibiting and restricting goods

- Pursuant to article ٢٤ of the GCC unified customs law, or any other relevant law, Customs prevents entry/exit of prohibited items, and prevents entry/exit of restricted items without official approval from relevant authorities.
- Any goods entering or exiting any customs ports should be accompanied by a detailed customs declaration outlining all the information about the shipment including the customs tariff article.
- Dubai Customs follows a coherent governance methodology in its procedures and control systems. The prohibition and restriction system control follows the provisions applied in the Tariff and Origin Department and linked directly to the controlling authorities. Other departments such as the Intelligence Department do their part in controlling and tracking prohibited and restricted goods by identifying the risks and violations. The Customs Audit Department controls any prohibition and restriction procedures to ensure they follow the standards. The same applies to other departments and sections such as the Customs Risk Section and the IT Departments which complement and support the Tariff and Origin Department.

Prohibited and restricted items updating procedures

- Head of Tariff and Origin Section receives decision of the Federal Customs Law from the Director of the Tariff and Origin Department with directives of what to do
- Head of Tariff and Origin Unit, following the instruction of the Head of the Section, specifies HS Codes for each items needed to be restricted.
- Restricted and Prohibited items are updated at the system (Master File) and connected with the customs clearance system.
- The Unit of Restricted and Prohibited items makes a report on the updates including the tariff articles that need to be added, updated or suspended and the controlling authorities. The report is sent to Head of the Section for review and endorsement.
- Following the remarks, the head of the unit makes the updates and corrections
- In case there are no remarks, the report is approved and sent to Head of the Section to start the procedures.
- An officer/ senior officer enters the updates into the Master File.
- The updates are reviewed by the Unit and approved
- In case of any remarks, Head of the Unit gives instructions and notes to make the necessary amendments.
- In case no corrections are needed, Head of the Unit reports to Head of the Section for final directives.
- If there are no remarks, Head of the Section approves the updates in the system.
- A detailed report of the updates is required from the IT Department
- Head of the Unit review updates for compatibility
- Head of the Unit/Section draft a customs announcement of the restriction and prohibition updates and when will be put on force.
- Head of Unit/Section shares draft with the Director of the Tariff and Origin Department for approval, and circulation if needed.
- The Customs announcement is approved by the Director and raised to the Director General of Dubai Customs for approval, and circulation if needed.

Prohibited and restricted items control electronic system

Commodities Restriction/Prohibition

Restrict/Prohibit ID:

Type of Action: Type of Mitigation:

Reason:

Reference No.:

Controlling Authority:

Period Type: Start Date: End Date:

Recurring Type: Status: ☒ Active

Declaration Types

Bill Type:

Bill Type

Add

Clear

Delete

Classification

Type: Code: Description:

Fully Prohibited

Type	Code	Description	Fully

Add

Modify

Clear

Delete

Show Reference

Red - Commodity Included in Other Restriction/Prohibition

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Work procedure references

- GCC Unified Customs Law
- Economic and Financial Committee Provisions
- Local and federal controlling authorities' provisions
- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- World Customs Organization
- World Health Organization



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