

Translation dutch customs house letter "Verkorten aanzegtermijn per 22 april"

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Port of Rotterdam has been struggling for some time with the problem of "uithalers / collectors" who, on behalf of criminals, remove drugs from containers. To a lesser extent, this also occurs in other ports in the Netherlands. In the last weeks of 2023 and early 2024, there were daily arrests of large groups of these "collectors" in Rotterdam. Customs is therefore taking the lead in tackling this problem together with the business community using a combined set of measures.

One of the measures is to shorten the notification period. This falls under the scope of the national program "Weerbare Haven Terminals" (WHT).

At present, the notification period in most cases is 72 hours before the arrival of the ship in port. The assumption is that shortening the notification period to 24 hours will hinder criminal organizations from "removing" narcotics.

Of course, a shorter notification period has consequences for many of your logistical processes and undoubtedly also for other service processes of your company. This also applies without restriction to the processes at Customs. Customs does not ignore the consequences of introducing this shorter notification period. After all, you will only receive confirmation at a later date that your cargo has NOT been selected for a control.

For that reason, we would like to involve you in the process of implementing this measure in the most optimal way possible. Hence this pilot. We ask you to inform your members about this.

Pilot

From April 22, 2024, for a period of two weeks, the notification period will be shortened from 72 to 48 hours. This will be followed by a two-week period in which the period will be further reduced to 24 hours. Of course, as far as the transition to the second phase is concerned, only if there are no significant incidents/disruptions during the first two weeks.

After the end of the Pilot, the notification period will be set back to 72 hours from Friday, May 17 (07:00 hrs) for the time being.

We realize that only through optimal cooperation can we make the impact on these processes transparent, coordinate, improve and manage them.

We therefore invite your members to share any relevant impact on their processes with us. They can use the following email address for this purpose during the duration of the pilot and the week thereafter. The email address is: Douane.DLTC.WHT@douane.nl

For now, we expect to have informed you adequately in this way.

On behalf of Dutch Customs,

Renate de Vries

General Program Manager