



State Revenue Service  
Republic of Latvia



**State Revenue Service**

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**Radiation Safety Centre  
State Environmental Service**

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**Control of Goods and Vehicles  
with Equipment  
Emitting Ionising Radiation  
on the Border of the Republic of Latvia**



In order to ensure fast and efficient customs controls of cargos and vehicles many countries in their customs control points use equipment emitting ionising radiation or containing radioactive sources. Use of such equipment is one of the most effective and rapid means of carrying out customs control measures.

The equipment enables examining of various objects – lorries, containers, railway wagons and other vehicles. The digital images are immediately analysed by trained operators, who establish whether the cargo contains hidden smuggled goods or hiding places.

From 2004, such equipment is employed also in Latvia. Radioactive sources are not currently utilized in the cargo scanners used in the customs control points. Ionising radiation is emitted by scanning equipment that contains linear accelerator.

***A licence issued by Radiation Safety Centre of the State Environmental Service has been granted for the use of the equipment<sup>1</sup>.*** This signifies that parameters of the equipment meet certain conditions, service staff has been trained and all the required safety measures have been taken. Following the user manuals and radiation safety instructions, the service staff and other persons are protected from the impact of ionising radiation.

Customs control measures involving equipment emitting ionising radiation, that is used in compliance with the radiation safety requirements, do not present risks for human health, the quality of the controlled cargo or vehicle.

<sup>1</sup> The licensing procedure has been laid down by Cabinet Regulation No 752 of 22 December 2015 'Procedures for Licensing and Registration of Activities with Sources of Ionising Radiation'



***Driver and passengers of the vehicle have to be outside the restricted area during the customs controls and must follow the instructions of the customs officials. Thus, driver and passengers will be protected from exposure to ionising radiation.***

Considering the energy of the ionising radiation ( $\leq 9$  MeV) produced by the equipment used in Latvia, ***exposure of a vehicle to ionising radiation cannot create 'permanent' radioactivity. Exposure of the vehicle takes place for a short period – approximately one minute***, preceded by the security checks required to operate the equipment and a warning about the initiation of scanning.

The radiation dose absorbed by the vehicle during one instance of scanning does not exceed  $0.05 \mu\text{Sv}$  (microsieverts), which is significantly smaller than the dose to which citizens may be exposed per year as prescribed by the laws and regulations ( $1\ 000 \mu\text{Sv}$ ).

For additional information on impact of ionising radiation and how to follow the safety requirements for using sources of ionising radiation, please contact employees of **Operative Warning Sector of Radiation Safety Centre of State Environmental Service** by calling

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or **+371 26565626 (24/7)**,

or by writing an e-mail to **pasts@rdc.vvd.gov.lv**.