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Container inspection by Customs

Container transport by land, sea and air is rapidly increasing. Also in Rotterdam, the world's largest seaport where millions of containers are loaded and unloaded annually. This number will continue to rise over the years to come. To inspect this large flow of goods as efficiently as possible, Customs have introduced the Container Inspection System, often referred to as *container scan*. With the use of this advanced system your containers will be inspected quickly. The new method of inspection means that the containers will no longer have to be opened.

2

Who will be dealing with the container scan?

If you load or unload containers in the port of Rotterdam you may be confronted with the container scan in the Maasvlakte area. This also applies to containers entering the Waal-Eemhaven or Britanniëhaven/Seinehaven. If the Customs authorities wish to carry out an inspection, the person who declared the goods concerned will be informed of this promptly.

3

How does the container scan work?

The container scan consists of a tunnel fitted with X-ray equipment through which lorries with containers are driven. The vehicles should have a maximum length of 19 m, a maximum width of 2.60 m and a maximum height of 4.30 m. During

inspection a hydraulic system lifts the lorry at its front wheels and automatically guides the vehicle through the tunnel. The containers are checked by means of X-rays. The whole scanning process will take approximately three minutes.

Images of the contents of the container are sent to monitors and checked by specialised customs officers. Evaluation of the X-ray images will take about fifteen minutes. Occasionally, Customs may find further inspection of a container necessary. This will be carried out by qualified loading and unloading personnel in a specially designed loading and unloading facility at the Customs area.

During the time required for loading and unloading, drivers may complete any other formalities or have a cup of coffee in the waiting lounge.



4

How safe is the container scan?

To protect visitors and customs officers, the walls of the scanning installation are up to 2.5 m at some points. The scanning installation is very well secured; the installation will not be switched on if there are people inside the tunnel. The level of radiation is far less than the statutorily allowed maximum. So it is harmless to people and to goods. Food stuffs or electronic equipment are not at risk either. Only certain photographic material,

photographic paper and X-rays must not be exposed to the radiation source.

A radiation expert will continuously monitor the level of radiation. Customs has obtained permission for using the container scan under the Decision Radiation Protection Nuclear Energy Act [Besluit Stralenscherming Kernenergiewet]

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Where is the container scan situated?

The container scan is built at the Maasvlakte near Rotterdam. This location is easily accessible to road transport and lies at 500 m from the ECT-Delta terminal.

You can reach the container scan at the Maasvlakte by following the A15 from Rotterdam in the direction of Europoort via the road signs with port number 9028.

The address is:
Bosporusstraat 5
3199 LJ Maasvlakte, Rotterdam
Telephone: 0181-373737



Any further questions?

This brochure gives you general information about the container scan. If you require any further information, please call (free of charge) the Tax Infoline Customs (Belasting Telefoon Douane) at 0800-0143, Mondays to Thursdays from 8.00 to 22.00 hours and Fridays from 8.00 to 17.00 hours.

You can also find us on the Internet.
Our address is: <http://www.douane.nl>



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*The Dutch Customs Administration is a member
of the World Customs Organization.*

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Belastingdienst Douane

Leuker kunnen we 't niet maken. Wel makkelijker.

Container Scan at "Maasvlakte" Rotterdam

Your containers quickly
checked by the Customs



Do you load or unload
containers in Rotterdam?
Then it is possible that they will
be checked by means of the
containers scan of the Customs.
With this easy and quick method
your container does not
necessarily have to be opened
for a customs check. The details
on how such checks are carried
out, are described in this leaflet.

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