

MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET PRESENTED
BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS

Customs Sealing Systems

1. On the 11th June, 1968, the Customs Co-operation Council of Brussels adopted a Recommendation concerning Customs Sealing Systems in Connection with the International Transport of Goods.
2. This Recommendation is aimed at facilitating the international transport of goods under Customs seal by the adoption of internationally agreed standards of Customs sealing systems as a basis for the recognition by Customs authorities of Customs seals and fastenings affixed in other States.
3. The Recommendation therefore enjoins Member States to ensure that when using Customs seals and fastenings in the international transport of goods, these seals and fastenings should conform to the technical specifications shown in the Appendix to the Recommendation. The Recommendation further enjoins Member States to recognise such Customs seals and fastenings affixed in States which have accepted this Recommendation and to refrain as far as possible from adding their own seals.
4. Member States which accept this Recommendation would be required to submit to the Secretary General of the Council, specimens of the seals and fastenings which they use, with a description of their main features, and to inform him of any subsequent changes in those seals and fastenings. These particulars would be required for the information of other States.
5. The Recommendation also enjoins Member States to apply adequate safeguards regarding the manufacture and supply of presses, seals and fastenings, and to control effectively their use.
6. The technical specifications referred to in the Appendix indicate the requirements of the Customs seals and fastenings

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and concern the essential characteristics, the physical specification of seals, the sealing presses, the identification marks, and the fastenings. All these requirements are in fact observed when seals and fastenings are used by this department and they may therefore be met should Malta accept this Recommendation.

7. The scope of this Recommendation is therefore to facilitate the transit of goods passing through a country for a destination in another country when such goods are provided with a Customs seal at the country of original despatch.
8. Cases which fall within this scope can only refer to goods which are landed in Malta pending transhipment to other countries and no difficulty from a Customs viewpoint is envisaged.
9. Acceptance of this Recommendation would amount to a formal confirmation of what in fact is being done in practice.
10. No new legislation or amendments to existing legislation would be required.
11. The Crown Advocate General has been consulted on the matter under reference and had advised that the Malta Government may adhere to the Recommendation in question.
12. Hon. Ministers are requested to signify their approval of Malta's acceptance of this Recommendation.
