

## Russie : des restrictions potentielles sur la route de dédouanement

On 30 November 2013, The Russian Customs Authorities officially announced that they had agreed to postpone the entry into force of alternative rules for customs clearances from 1 December 2013 to 1 July 2014, thus effectively allowing European operators to continue to use the TIR carnets and guarantees for customs operations at the Russian borders.

However, the European Commission has been made aware of developments which conflict with the Russian Customs Authorities' statement of 30 November. On 2 December 2013, the customs authorities also published a list of the Russian districts where the TIR carnets would no longer be accepted. This list (made of what were initially supposed to be exceptions) is turning out to become the general rule, as these districts now represent 95% of all Russian Customs offices. The TIR guarantees will now only apply in the customs districts of the north-east regions of Vyborg, Karelia and Murmansk (border with Finland).

In all other customs districts, the TIR Carnet may continue to be accepted as a transit procedure. However, an additional guarantee (cash, bank guarantees, etc) will also be required in these regions. This raises fundamental concerns for the trade sector, mainly as regards liability and security issues, legal uncertainty, and financial risks.

Over the coming months, the European Commission will continue to demand that the Russian authorities accept, and recognise the legality of the TIR convention. It is also looking to find a solution on this customs issue with Russia "well before 1 July 2014". The European Commission recently also published [detailed information on Russian national transit procedures](#) that can alternatively be used for transit in Russia.

Source : Extrait de la lettre de Freshfel N° : 48 (13/12/2013)