



China-Russia Trade Facilitated by Customs MRA

On August 8, 2014, the implementation of a mutual recognition protocol between China Customs and Russia Customs embraced its inaugural ceremony at Sui Fen He port of entry.

China Customs and Russia Customs signed “the Protocol of Mutual Recognition of Customs Control over Particular Commodities” on October 22, 2013, by which both Customs Administrations agree to accept one another’s conformity assessment of certain commodities in terms of Customs control. For instance, under the Protocol China Customs may exempt certain Russian commodities from physical inspection if they have been inspected by and fulfilled the export formalities of Russia Customs and related information has been shared with China Customs in a timely manner.

Test run has been conducted on 61 shipments in this May through July, including the import of sawn timber 976 tons and the export of fruit and vegetables 526 tons. The simplification of Customs formalities can expedite the trade flow, saving logistical cost for economic operators and enforcement resources for Customs Administrations.

Currently, the coverage of the mutual recognition arrangement is restricted to fruit and vegetables from China, and sawn timber from Russia. And only two specified ports of entry, namely Dong Ning and Sui Fen He, are

eligible for the process. However, it is expected that more and more commodities and ports of entry will join the program as China-Russia trade keeps growing in the future.

Source: *China Customs*