

ПАСОЛЬСТВА РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ  
У ЗЛУЧАНЫМ КАРАЛЕЎСТВЕ  
ВЯЛІКАБРЫТАНІІ І ПАЎНОЧНАЙ  
ІРЛАНДЫІ



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## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Latest Clarifications issued by the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus with regard to the Customs Clearance of Foreign Gratuitous Assistance**

As is clarified by the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus, the procedures relating to the registration, receipt and use of foreign gratuitous assistance **have not changed** and are regulated by Ordinance of the President No. 24 of 28 November 2003, Bylaw of the Presidential Management Office No. 7 of 30 June 2004 (as amended by Bylaw No. 2 of 18 March 2005), following the coming into effect of the new Customs Code of Belarus on 1 July 2007.

As is known, the procedures relating to the imports of medicines and medical equipment are within the remit of the Ministry of Health and require proper approval paperwork and certification of this sort of gratuitous assistance, prior to its actual import.

Under the newly adopted Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus (No. 977 of 1 August 2007), charities, in the same way it was before, **are not** required to guarantee or discharge any tax or customs duty liabilities with regard to the imports of their gratuitous assistance which is subject to the customs procedure of transit from the customs point of entry to the destination. However, this provision is conditional on whether prior notice has been given by the Department of Humanitarian Assistance (DHA) to the State Customs Committee. The Embassy suggests that while liaising with the Department of Humanitarian Assistance the Belarusian partner of the charity should alert the Department to the timeframe when the assistance is due to enter into Belarus.

While paperwork is being processed, foreign gratuitous assistance may be stored on a temporary basis (below two months) in a temporary storage warehouse or, pursuant to Article 131 of the Customs Code, in a beneficiary's warehouse.

Failure to receive a DHA certificate for the foreign gratuitous assistance within two months may result in relocating the goods to a customs warehouse under the customs procedure of customs storage for below two years. The duration period of the customs procedure in question may vary, however, depending on the expiry dates of the goods. It is specified that the duration period shall be such that it runs out 180 days prior to the expiry dates of the goods.

Where the goods are subject to the customs procedure of customs storage, their storage is not permitted elsewhere (even at the premises of the consignee) other than customs warehouses.

To reduce periods of temporary storage and preclude situations where, by law, foreign gratuitous assistance becomes subject to the customs procedure of customs storage, the Customs Authorities recommend that all paperwork (specifying the goods, their details) should be done and exchanged by charities and their Belarusian partners so as to allow proper time for the DHA to issue certificates.