

UKRAINE'S EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING SMUGGLING

Khutoryni D. V., student

Gerasymchuk T.V., PhD, Associate Professor

Kharkiv National Automobile and Highway University

Introduction. Smuggling is a serious problem that affects the economy, security and legitimacy of a country. Being at the crossroads of key transportation routes, Ukraine is actively fighting this phenomenon. Smuggling is one of the most negative phenomena in public life that affects every country in the world, and due to martial law and global integration, it has become a problem without borders. Illegal movement of drugs, weapons, ammunition, cultural and historical values across the customs border has traditionally been the focus of attention of criminal groups as a way to get rich quick. This report focuses on the experience and measures taken by Ukraine to combat smuggling.

Geographical location and challenges. The geographical location of Ukraine, its borders with Europe and the countries of the East, creates favorable conditions for the transportation of smuggled goods. This leads to the need to strengthen border controls, as various transportation routes and methods of hiding goods complicate the detection process.

Measures to combat smuggling. 1. Upgrading technologies at the borders: Ukraine is introducing modern equipment for border control. For example, the use of X-ray scanners to inspect cargo and vehicles helps to detect hidden contraband goods.

2. Cooperation with international organizations: Ukraine actively cooperates with Interpol, Europol, and other international agencies to exchange information and conduct joint operations against smuggling. This allows access to global databases and resources to fight crime more effectively.

3. Strengthening customs inspections: Ukraine is focusing on improving the quality and efficiency of customs controls. This includes improving procedures and inspection points at the borders, as well as training staff to detect and prevent smuggling.

4. Specialized operations and investigations: In particular, in the area of drug and arms smuggling, Ukrainian law enforcement agencies conduct specialized operations and investigations to disrupt and disclose such criminal schemes.

These examples demonstrate the wide range of measures that Ukraine is taking to combat smuggling at various levels, from the use of technology to international cooperation and strengthening border controls.

Challenges and prospects. Despite the measures taken, smuggling remains a complex problem due to constant changes in the methods and routes of transportation of illicit goods. In addition, the low standard of living in some regions contributes to the involvement of people in illegal schemes.

There are still some successes... Meanwhile, there have been some successes.

Here are just a few examples. In March 2019, during a joint special operation of the National Police of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine and the State Tax Service of Ukraine, 257 kg of cocaine was seized from illicit trafficking, which was in a container that arrived in Odesa region from Latin America. In total, since the beginning of the year, 3,499 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances have been seized from illicit trafficking (at the beginning of the pre-trial investigation, excluding closed cases). In particular, as a result of operations conducted by the National Police to eliminate international channels, 925 kg of heroin and 657 kg of cocaine, 2,940 kg of poppy straw, 482 kg of cannabis, 29.3 kg of methadone, 20.5 kg of amphetamine, 11.6 kg of methamphetamine, 11.4 kg of opium, 1.2 kg of desomorphine, etc. were seized from drug criminals.

In June-July 2019, jointly with the UK Customs and Taxation Service and the special services of the Republic of Poland, a large-scale operation was conducted to stop the activities of an international group that organized the illegal movement of tobacco products to the European Union. The largest consignment of such products in the history of Ukraine's independence was seized. The estimated value of the seized products is about UAH 70 million, not including 13 trucks that transported the excisable products. In April 2019, two more channels of illegal transportation of tobacco products with counterfeit excise tax stamps from the non-government

controlled territory of Donetsk region were exposed. One of the identified groups used a motorboat to transport the goods across the Azov Sea, while the other group smuggled counterfeit cigarettes across the Kalmius River. In total, 277 boxes of tobacco products worth over UAH 3 million were seized.

In June 2019, in Luhansk region, the SBU stopped the illegal supply of fuel and lubricants from Russia to Ukraine via an underground pipeline. Equipment for pumping fuels and lubricants, a 24-cubic meter tank and 15 thousand liters of diesel fuel were seized (the value of the seized goods and equipment is about UAH 500 thousand), and the illegal pipeline was dismantled.

As for the smuggling of potent and poisonous substances, smuggling schemes outside the state border checkpoints are used to move them. Potent and poisonous substances are mainly represented by medicines and raw materials for their manufacture. In most cases, they come to Ukraine from China through the postal channel. Such drugs are also smuggled from the EU and Moldova, where anabolic drugs are freely traded.

Among the latest developments this fall: at the Melitopol customs post, law enforcement officers detained a smuggler who was supplying equipment for Russian warships. The organizer of this illegal activity was one of the former heads of a state-owned enterprise.

SBU investigators and counterintelligence officers prevented a resident of Mykolaiv from illegally transferring to the state aggressor components used for repair and maintenance of engines on Russian Navy ships.

Favorable conditions for smuggling. The main factors that create favorable conditions for smuggling are: insufficient coordination of law enforcement and regulatory authorities of Ukraine with the relevant authorities of the neighboring countries in terms of information exchange on countering the movement of goods outside customs control or concealed from customs control. As a rule, the reasons for this are the lack of a unified database of the customs authorities of Ukraine with the customs authorities of foreign countries; assistance of public officials, including law enforcement and regulatory officials, to legal entities or individuals in moving the

specified type of goods across the customs border of Ukraine (corruption component); imperfect and contradictory legislative regulation of activities to combat smuggling and violation of customs rules; significant differences between prices for certain groups of goods on the world and domestic markets; unemployment.

Prospects and Conclusion. Although Ukraine is taking active measures to combat smuggling, the problem remains challenging due to constant changes and adaptation of smugglers. However, the use of the latest technologies, cooperation with international partners, and continuous improvement of legislation are key strategies to continue to effectively combat this phenomenon.

Ukraine has extensive experience in combating smuggling due to its geographical location at the crossroads of transportation routes between Eastern and Western Europe. The country is actively combating smuggling at various levels, including by introducing legislative changes, strengthening border controls, cooperating with international partners, and using modern technologies.

Enhanced control measures are being implemented at the borders, including the use of special equipment to detect smuggled goods. Cooperation programs between various security services and customs are also being implemented to ensure a coordinated response to possible violations.

Ukraine actively cooperates with international organizations, such as Interpol and the European Police Organization Europol, to exchange information and conduct joint anti-smuggling operations.

Legislative changes also play an important role in the fight against smuggling. Ukraine is constantly improving its laws and regulations to make life more difficult for smugglers and to ensure that such violations are more effectively countered.

However, despite these measures, smuggling remains a serious problem for Ukraine due to the difficulty of controlling all borders, the variety of transportation routes and the ever-changing methods of hiding contraband.

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PHARMACEUTICAL LOGISTICS

*Sydorchuk V., student
Gerasymchuk T.V., PhD, Associate Professor
Kharkiv National Automobile and Highway University*

Pharmaceutical logistics is a specialized branch of logistics that involves the management and optimization of the movement of medical preparations, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and other pharmaceutical products from the manufacturer to the end consumer or healthcare facility. The main goal of pharmaceutical logistics is to ensure uninterrupted and efficient supply of medicines and medical goods, adherence to quality standards, safety, and compliance with regulatory requirements in this sensitive industry.

The main aspects of pharmaceutical logistics include:

- **Temperature Control:** Monitoring and transportation of pharmaceutical products according to defined temperature standards to ensure their quality and effectiveness.
- **Inventory Management:** Accurate determination of pharmaceutical product needs to avoid overstocking or shortages.
- **Batch Tracking and Quality Control:** Systems for tracking each batch of pharmaceutical products and ensuring high standards of quality and safety.
- **Safety and Compliance:** Adherence to all regulatory requirements and safety standards in the pharmaceutical industry.