

# O.V. Veremeychik English for Customs Officers

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Утверждено Министерством образования Республики Беларусь в качестве учебника для студентов учреждений высшего образования по специальности «Таможенное дело»



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Содержится аутентичный материал, тематически связанный с основами таможенного дела. Представленные в пособии задания ориентированы на освоение профессиональной лексики, терминологии, развитие навыков разговорной речи и активное использование специальной лексики в предметной области.

Предназначено студентам специальности «Таможенное дело», слушателям высших учебных заведений и различных курсов повышения квалификации в области внешнеэкономической деятельности, а также для самостоятельной работы студентов по освоению курса. Может быть использовано в качестве дополнительного материала на интенсивных курсах.

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# ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Понятие «таможенное дело» объединяет широкий круг вопросов экономического, юридического и организационного характера, так или иначе затрагивающих внешнеэкономическую деятельность.

В учебнике на основании документов международных организаций (WCO) и таможенного законодательства ЕАЭС освещены управленческие, экономические и правовые основы организации и осуществления таможенного дела как комплексной, междисциплинарной области знаний. Особое внимание уделено таможенному контролю и таможенному оформлению, как одним из основных функций таможенных органов, а также техническим средствам таможенного контроля и информационным технологиям, применяемым в этой сфере. Учебник подготовлен на основе нормативных источников, выдержек из международных документов, статей и других материалов, список которых представлен в конце.

Основное назначение предлагаемого учебника – оказание практической помощи лицам, изучающим профессионально-ориентированный английский язык. Курс предназначен для специалистов в сфере таможенного дела и внешнеэкономической деятельности. В нем предлагается оригинальная методика работы с материалом, которая основана на использовании разнообразных способов его подачи, систематическом повторении лексики по темам и активном применении различных коммуникативных приемов.

Учебник включает 18 тематических блоков. Их структура определяется общей целью освоения будущими специалистами лексических, грамматических и стилистических средств выражения основных понятий таможенного дела, развития навыков разговорной речи и активного использования специальной лексики в предметной области.

В каждый блок входят основные тексты по конкретной тематике таможенного дела, послетекстовые лексические и грамматические упражнения. Для более точ-

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ной передачи контекстуального значения некоторые явления и понятия сопровождаются переводом на русский язык.

Наличие раздела «Follow-up activities» позволяет не только расширить словарный запас обучающихся, закрепить сформированные лексико-грамматические навыки говорения и чтения, но и расширить кругозор слушателей. Для более тщательной отработки основного тематического материала в данной части предлагается двусторонний письменный перевод отдельных предложений и фрагментов текста.

С целью контроля усвоения тематического материала и «выхода в речь» в каждом разделе урока используются более сложные упражнения – ситуативные имитации, выполнение которых подразумевает свободное владение профессиональной лексикой в пределах конкретной тематики.

Кроссворды, ребусы, задания творческого характера в разделе «Do it for fun» делают изучение профессионально-ориентированного иностранного языка более интересным и занимательным.

Раздел «Keys» содержит ответы к наиболее сложным лексическим и грамматическим упражнениям, а также решение ребусов и кроссвордов.

Автор

# UNIT 1 THE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

## TEXT 1.1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

• Study the following words and word combinations from the text.

seal	клеймо, печать
to verify	подтверждать, удостоверять
to evolve	развиваться
sovereignty ['spvrənti]	суверенитет
sovereign ['spvrin]	суверенный, независимый
nomenclature	номенклатура
[nəʊˈmenklət∫ə]	
to forge	изобретать
to be passed	быть принятым
Charter	устав
Code	кодекс
framework	структура, основа, рамка
to stipulate	оговаривать
wording	формулировка
e	

The origin of the current Russian word for Customs "tamozhnya" dates back to the times of the Mongol-Tatar yoke. The word *tamga*, in Tatar, meant "a Customs tax, the official who collected it, and the stamped seal or statement verifying that it had been paid". At that time each market had its *tamozhnya*, and the right to collect duties could be purchased from the State. As a rule this right was acquired by powerful merchants.

THE CREATION OF THE BELARUSIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE dates back to 1990s. But Customs Service on the territory of Belarus has a more than one thousand-year history. The first Customs that were called "mytnizy" appeared in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. They were located near bridges, river crossings, in the cities close to the main trade ways. Taxes and duties were

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collected by "mytniky". It came from the word "myto". The words "myto" and "myt" were mentioned for the first time in the agreement between Kievan Rus and Byzantine Empire in 905. These words had the same meaning as today's customs duty. There were different kinds of myto. There was "dry" myto collected from carriges and "water" myto that was applied for boats.

In 1991 the Belarusian office of the USSR State Customs Control was transformed into the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus. All the USSR Customs facilities that were stationed on the territory of Belarus were brought under the supervision of the newly-formed committee. That was the beginning of a new era in the history of the Belarusian Customs Service, which saw it evolve into a law-enforcement body defending economic interests of the country.

Historically, Belarus has always been a territory on the way of major freight and passenger railway and motorcar transport flows from East to West and from West to East of the European continent. After Belarus gained sovereignty in 1991, it realized it had to place more effort in guarding its economic interests and that was the main mission of Customs authorities.

Before 1991, there were four Customs stations in Belarus. Despite socio-economic difficulties the country faced after gaining sovereignty, there was an urgent need to create an integrated system of Customs Service within a short period of time in order to ensure economic security of the sovereign state. The work on forging Customs legislation started at that time.

A law "On the Fundamentals of Organization of the Customs Service of the Republic of Belarus" was passed in 1992. The document stipulated legal and organizational aspects of Customs Service and outlined its mission and goals which were aimed at protecting economic interests of the state. Two documents were adopted at that time: the Republic of Belarus State Customs Committee Regulations and the Customs Service Charter.

In 1993, the Customs Code and a law "On Customs Tariff" were passed. Since 1995, specialists have been working on unifying Customs legislations of Belarus and Russia in the framework of the Customs Union. On July 17, 1998 a new Customs Code of the Republic of Belarus was introduced. It has become the major legal document regulating the work of Belarusian Customs authorities. On February 2, 2000, new Republic of Belarus State Customs Committee Regulations were adopted.

On July 1, 2002, a Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity (CNFEA) of the Republic of Belarus was introduced. It had

been developed on the basis of a new (2002) wording of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. The new nomenclature is based on a ten-digit coding system. Such a classification allows to specify commodity nomenclature giving an CNFEA individual code to the goods which have the same names but different technical or consumer properties.

Since 2010 the most close and fruitful Customs cooperation of the Republic of Belarus has been conducted in the post-Soviet area in the Union State of Russia and Belarus, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

#### **EXERCISES**

I. Match the words from the text with their corresponding definitions.

<ol> <li>to verify</li> <li>to acquire</li> <li>facilities</li> <li>to guard</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>a. to try or intend to achieve something</li> <li>b. to develop something new</li> <li>c. to combine to make a single unit</li> <li>d. to specify as a condition or requirement (as of an agreement or offer)</li> </ul>
5. to ensure	agreement or offer) e. to start to deal with or think about something in a
( to forme	particular way
6. to forge 7. to stipulate	f. to obtain something by buying it or being given it g. to protect a person, place, or object by staying near
8. to aim	them and watching them i. to bring a plan, system, or product into use for the
o. to unit	first time
9. to adopt	j. to make certain that something will happen properly
10. to unify	k. rooms, equipment, or services that are provided for a particular purpose
11. to introduce	l. to discover whether something is correct or true

**II.** Find the words/phrases in the text which follow the verbs below.

to collect	to gain	to outline
to acquire	to ensure	to unify
to defend	to stipulate	to give

**III.** Match the major legal documents, regulating the activities of the Belarusian Customs Service, with their corresponding definitions in Russian.

 On the Fundamentals of Organization of the Customs Service of the Republic of Belarus
 The Republic of Belarus State Customs Committee Regulations
 On Customs Tariff

 A Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Belarus
 The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

6. The Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union

7. The Customs Service Charter

а. О таможенном тарифе

b. Устав таможенной службы

с. Гармонизированная система описания и кодирования товаров d. Таможенный кодекс Евразийского экономического союза

е. Об основах организации таможенной службы Республики Беларусь

f. Товарная номенклатура внешнеэкономической деятельности Республики Беларусь

g. Положение о Государственном таможенном комитете Республики Беларусь

### TEXT 1.2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

• Study the following words and word combinations from the text.

to intertwine [ˌɪntəˈtwaɪn]	переплетаться
to entrust	доверить, поручать
under the auspices	под эгидой, под руководством,
['Andə ðiː'əːspɪsiːz]	при содействии
rapprochement (fr.)	восстановление или возобновле-
[ræ'prɒ∫mɑːŋ] – (esp. in inter-	ние дружественных отношений
national relations)	между государствами

RUSSIA'S CUSTOMS SERVICE is intertwined with the history of the Russian state. The Russian Customs Service predates the Mongol Yoke (1237–1480). Some three centuries before, in Kievan Rus, taxes were collected for the transportation of goods through the frontiers of its individual princedoms. There were Mytnic Brigades, who were responsible for the trading and transit of Myto Duties. At the end of the 13th century the

Mytnic Brigades were replaced by Tamgachey collectors of the Mongolian Khan Horde who collected the so-called Tamgha Duty.

The Tamgha Duty proved to be one of the most profitable fees collected and was calculated according to a commodity's value. Ever since that time, this fee has come to be known as a Customs duty and its place of collection – a Customs office.

Revenue collection was entrusted to the Russian Principalities and by the 14th century the right to collect the duties and be Customs officials could be inherited or purchased in some towns, villages and small administrative settlements, the volosty.

Thus, Russia has had a Customs Service in some form for the past 1000 years. The Russian Customs Service has always targeted smuggling. In the 15th and 17th centuries foreigners were often found to be smuggling out of Russia secret maps of its territories and its fortresses.

The Russian Customs Service has always been much more than a force for keeping out contraband. In fact, it has been a powerful administrative organ, serving mainly protectionist leaders.

The first Russian Customs statute was handed down in 1667. It was strict towards foreigners. They were allowed to trade only in frontier towns on pain of confiscation. To trade further inside the country a special tsar's certificate was required. Such protectionism held away for most of the next 300 years. All tsars (from Peter the Great to Nicolas II) approved laws limiting the import of foreign goods, thus defending Russian producers.

Peter the Great pioneered the modernization of the Russian Customs Service, especially, in the organization of its personnel. In 1699 the post of Burmistr (The Head of the Customs Service) was adopted.

Since 1720 the major Customs officers were called Senior Customs Observers or Inspectors. According to the Manifest of the Russian Empress Elizabeth domestic Customs houses were abolished along with 17 internal trade and transit duties. Inward and outward commodity transactions were levied with an additional 13 % duty in Russian currency.

Since 1811 the Customs Division in the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Finance has been responsible for the management of all Customs stations. In 1864 the Customs Division was renamed the Customs Revenue Collection Department of the Ministry of Finance.

In April 1918 the basic organization of the Customs was fixed by the Sovnarkom Decree of the Government Regulation of Foreign Trade. The

main focus was on the Governmental control of foreign trade and smuggling. In 1921 a Customs Department which was responsible for state control over the Customs stations was established as a part of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade. From 1946 to 1986 it was under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the USSR. Later the Main Customs Department became the State Customs Directorate under the auspices of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Having overcome destructive effects of disintegration of the USSR, having inherited 14 thousand kilometres of not developed borders, severely lacking professional force, the service has passed a long way of growth and development.

During the period 1991–94, much was done to create Customs legislation in Russia. Two important laws were put into power: "The Customs Code of the Russian Federation" and "On Customs Tariff". All provisions and regulations in these documents are of the world standards.

Customs Service of Russia today (Federal Customs Service) is one of the largest Customs Services in the world. It is a multifunctional, technically equipped structure, with qualified personnel working in it.

The FCS of Russia is composed of regional Customs Administrations, Customs offices, Customs terminals, and checkpoints at the state border. In its structure there is a higher education establishment – Russian Customs Academy, recognized by the World Customs Organization as one of its regional training centres.

Federal Customs Service has seven representative offices abroad – in Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzia, Finland, Germany and Belgium. The opening of representative offices in China and Poland are being considered now.

In the territory with 11 time zones it successfully controls foreign trade turnover of Russia.

Customs policy has a far greater share and importance in Russia's regulation of economic activities than in industrial countries with developed market economics. Customs policy has already performed its historical role in Western European countries.

Today Russia has the world's longest border to police. The Russian Federation has a modern, multi-functioning Customs Service which is able to take a deserving place in market economy regulation and is competent to help in rapprochement between the Russian and world economies.

#### **EXERCISES**

I. Find the words in the text which follow the verbs below.

a. to collect	f.todefend
b. to calculate	g. to create
c. to keep out	h. to be of
d. to approve	i. to overcome
e to limit	

**II.** Find the words/phrases in the text which mean:

### A

- 1. charge against property or activity for the support of government
- 2. to give, to pass
- 3. borders
- 4. an official document that gives information
- 5. to adopt (a law)
- 6. reestablishing of cordial relations

#### B

- a. to buy, to get
- b. to import or export without paying customs duties
- c. to keep safe, to guard
- d. an act passed by a legislative body
- e. with the protection or support of a particular organization or person
- III. a) Complete the table with the correct form of the words.

Verb	Noun	Adjective
1. originate		
2.		administrative
3.	defense	
4. legislate		
5.	competence	
6.		productive
7. smuggle		

b) Complete these sentences with the appropriate form of the words from the table above.

1. Recognizing that together they ... most of the world's oil, OPEC has agreed to raise the price for which the oil is sold.

2. The automobile company has announced that higher demand for windscrens encourages their ....

3. He claims that the present ... in the company is corrupt. ... measures should be taken immediately.

4. Very often successfully ... goods tend not to be subject to duties and taxes. It has a negative impact on the state budget.

5. Customs officers must be ... and correctly apply customs laws and regulations.

6. Experts have been working on unifying Customs ... of the Member States in the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union.

7. What is the ... of the word "tamozhnya"?

**IV**. Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box using Participle I, Gerund or Participle II as an attribute.

serve	limit	defend
keep	develop	increase
put	multifunction	deserve
hand down	require	

1. The Russian Customs Service has been a powerful administrative organ ... mainly protectionist leaders.

2. All tsars (from Peter the Great to Nicolas II) approved laws ... the import of foreign goods and ... Russian producers.

3. Customs Service has always been much more than a force for ... out contraband.

4. The Belarusian Customs Service is carrying out the same functions as the Customs of other ... countries.

5. Globalization leads to the ... integration of world markets.

6. Today the Russian Federation has a modern ... Customs Service which is able to take a ... place in market economy regulation.

7. The first Russian Customs statute ... in 1667 was strict towards foreigners.

8. Foreigners had to purchase a special tsar's certificate ... for trading inside the country.

9. The two important laws ... into power during 1991–1994 are of the world standards.

### TEXT 1.3. TASKS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

• Study the following words and word combinations from the text.

dispense with fiscal function enforcement	обойтись ( <i>без чего-л</i> .) налоговая (бюджетная) функция обеспечение соблюдения законодательства
law enforcement	правоохранительная функция
tariff method	тарифный метод
non-tariff method	нетарифный метод
foreign trade regulation	регулирование внешней торговли
trade regulation	регулирование торговли
to specify implementation	указывать, отмечать реализация, осуществление, имплементация
application	применение
to promote	способствовать, содействовать
facilitation	содействие, упрощение <sup>1</sup>
suppression	пресечение
to allot	наделять
within smb's terms	в пределах чьих-л. полномочий
of reference	налагать, облагать
to impose	противодействовать, противо-
to counteract	стоять
to restrain	сперукивать
endangered to enhance compliance ensuring compliance to enforce	сдерживать под угрозой исчезновения повышать, улучшать, усиливать соответствие, соблюдение обеспечение соблюдения исполнять

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Содействие торговле – упрощение и гармонизация международных торговых процедур – действий, практики и формальностей, связанных со сбором, обработкой и распространением данных, необходимых для перемещения товаров в международной торговле.

NOWADAYS we live in a rapidly changing world. Participating in foreign economic activity is a key driver for the successful development of our country. International trade is governed by the rules of trading systems and national governments.

Customs is the Government Service which is responsible for the administration of Customs law and the collection of duties and taxes and which also has the responsibility for the application of other laws and regulations relating to the importation, exportation, movement or storage of goods<sup>1</sup>. In other words, it is the organization which is responsible for establishing rules in the sphere of Customs, collecting duties and taxes as well as preventing illegal trafficking of goods.

Governments throughout the world recognize the value of Customs Services in their national economies and realize that the service being provided by Customs is one they cannot easily dispense with.

The Belarusian Customs Service is carrying out the same functions as the Customs of other developed countries: fiscal function, regulation of foreign trade by means of tariff and non-tariff methods, law enforcement, collection and keeping of Customs statistics concerning foreign trade, etc.

However, the main task of the Belarusian Customs is the protection of the economic interests of the country, national treasures, cultural and historical properties.

There are authorized bodies, called Customs authorities, whose mission is to protect economic interests of our country. The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus is the central Customs body.

It coordinates and controls activities of all Customs authorities of the country. The major tasks and functions of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus are specified by Decree No. 228 of the President of the Republic of Belarus issued April, 21, 2008 «On some matters related to the work of Customs bodies».

The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus includes 12 departments, 1 independent division and 1 unit (group).

The major tasks of the State Customs Committee are the following:

• implementation of the State Customs policy, regulation and control in Customs affairs and coordination of Customs procedures with government authorities and other organizations;

• safeguarding of the economic security of the Republic of Belarus, protection of economic interests of the country;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>*The Glossary of international Customs terms.* 

• development and application of Customs regulations to promote trade and economic relations of the Republic of Belarus;

• organization and improvement of Customs control and clearance procedures, facilitation of movement of goods through the Customs border of the Republic of Belarus, development of foreign economic links of companies and individuals;

• prevention and suppression of smuggling and other Customs-related crimes and administrative offences;

• implementation of international commitments of the Republic of Belarus related to Customs affairs.

The State Customs Committee might be allotted with other tasks in accordance with the legal acts of the President of the Republic of Belarus, laws of the Republic of Belarus and resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus adopted within its terms of reference.

The major functions of the Customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus are stipulated by Article 313 No. 204-1 of the Customs Code of the Republic of Belarus issued January, 4, 2007.

The Customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus carry out the following functions:

• perform Customs clearance and control; facilitate trade through the Customs border;

• impose Customs duties, monitor their due payment, take on measures on forced collection of Customs payments;

• secure the order of transporting commodities across the Customs border;

• monitor the observation of bans and restrictions for the import of goods to the Republic of Belarus and their export from the Republic of Belarus in line with the legislation and (or) international agreements of the Republic of Belarus;

• protect intellectual property rights within their terms of reference;

• counteract smuggling and other crimes, administrative violations, suppress illegal traffic of drugs, weapons, cultural values, radioactive substances, endangered species of animals and plants, items of intellectual property and other goods via the Customs border; assist the fight against international terrorism and restrain illegal interference in the international civil aviation in the airports of the Republic of Belarus;

• exercise tax, currency, export and other types of control within their terms of reference and in accordance with the legislation;

• keep Customs statistics of the foreign trade of the Republic of Belarus as well as special Customs statistics; • provide information and consultations on the issues related to the Customs regulation and other issues within their terms of reference; provide state organizations, companies and individuals with Customs information;

• train, retrain and enhance qualifications of the Customs executive officials;

• conduct research in the Customs sector.

Today, the role of Customs in revenue collection and social protection is extremely important but this has to be balanced with the role of Customs in trade facilitation. Trade facilitation is one of the key factors of economic development of all nations and world welfare. Trade facilitation is of significant importance because it is all about reducing time in international trade.

Despite a variety of political and administrative pressures and challenges the Belarusian Customs Service faces today, it does its best to maintain the appropriate balance between facilitating legitimate trade and travel while ensuring compliance with the laws and regulations it enforces and to demonstrate that these laws and regulations are applied fairly, efficiently and effectively.

#### **EXERCISES**

I. What are the synonyms from the text of the following words/phrases?

1. financial, budgetary	8. obligation
2. indicate, note	9. give something to someone as a
	share or task.
3. realization, introduction,	10. to establish or apply as compul-
execution	sory; levy
4. safety	11. similar to, or at the same level as
	something
5. use, deposition, applicability	12. oppose, resist
6. contribute, help	13. intervene, affect, invade
7. simplification, relief	14. raise, improve, strengthen
	15. accordance, observance, agree-
	ment

**II.** The words **effective** and **efficient** are similar in meanings but are sometimes confused. Some theory and practical material below will help you to use them correctly and avoid costly misunderstandings.

1. Advertising on commercial TV is the most effective method of testmarketing a household product.

2. We have a very efficient distribution network.

In (1) the meaning is that TV advertising has the most «impact».

In (2) we learn that the network is highly-organized and functions well. The nouns are *effect*, *effectiveness* and *efficiency*.

If something has become effective it has come into force:

e.g. The new rate f interest becomes effective as from 31 December.

#### A

Complete the grid below. Put a tick (V) if the word on the left can be used with the word in the top column.

	campaign	methods	secretary	solution	speaker
effective					V
efficient					

#### B

Complete the sentences.

1. The measures taken to cut unemployment have been ... as there is now less than 4 % of the population out of work.

2. Miss Chen is the most ... documentalist we've ever had; she's worked out a marvellous classification system.

3. Revised catalogue prices are ... as from March, 1st.

4. Direct mail shots are seldom ...; most finish in the wastepaper basket.

**III.** Match left to the right to make a word/phrase combination taken from the text.

1. implementation 2. protection	a. compliance with the laws and regulations b. smuggling and other crimes
3. application	c. that laws and regulations are applied fairly, ef-
	ficiently and effectively
4. promote	d. of economic interests of the country
5. prevention	e. the fight against international terrorism
6. facilitate	f. Customs statistics of the foreign trade of the Re-
	public of Belarus
7. impose	g. qualifications of the Customs executive officials

8. protect	i. state organizations, companies and individuals with Customs information
9. take	j. and suppression of smuggling
10. in line	k. the appropriate balance between facilitating le- gitimate trade and ensuring compliance with the laws and regulations
11. counteract	l. of Customs regulations
12. endangered	m. Customs duties
13. assist	n. trade and economic relations of the Republic of Belarus
14. keep	o. intellectual property rights
15. provide	p. of the State Customs policy
16. enhance	q. trade through the Customs border
17. maintain	r. with the legislation and (or) international agree- ments of the Republic of Belarus
18. ensure	s. on measures on collection of Customs payments
19. demonstrate	t. species of animals and plants

 ${\rm IV}.$  Read short descriptions of the functions carried out by the Belarusian Customs Service. Write A–D in the right box.

A – Fiscal function	<b>D</b> – Protection of the economic interests
<b>B</b> – Law enforcement	of the country
C – Collection of Customs	E – Protection of the society
statistics	

1. To compile and supply trade statistics of the right quality to a timetable which meets the needs of users with the minimum inconvenience to businesses.

2. To protect society by the enforcement of prohibitions and restrictions on the international movement of goods while minimizing the impact of illicit trade and international travel.

 $\bigcirc$ 

3. To collect the due amount of tax and duty at the right time.

Учебное издание

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