

# Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO)

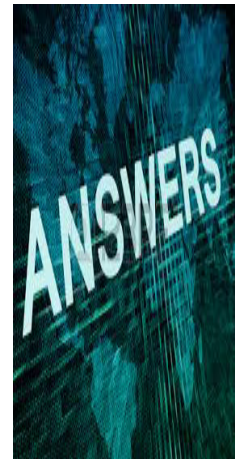


INTERNATIONAL & INDUSTRY LIAISON UNIT

TRADE BEAT

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## What is a RILO?

The Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) is a regional centre for collecting and analysing data, which also disseminates information throughout the global customs network. As a fundamental pillar of the World Customs Organization (WCO)'s Enforcement Strategy, Intelligence and Information Exchange is facilitated through eleven ( 11) RILOs covering the six (6) regions of the WCO.

In any given region, each RILO employs Customs officers from different countries to ensure that the entire dynamic of the region is fully reflected. With the responsibility of collecting and analysing regional data, RILOs are considered information centres, which are organized around three essential and complementary components:

- National Contact Points (NCP) at the National Customs Administration Level
- Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) at the Regional Level
- WCO Secretariat at the International Level

## WCO Regions

- North Africa, Near and Middle East
- West and Central Africa
- East and Southern Africa
- South America, North America, Central America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- Far East, South and South-East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands

The aim of this mechanism is to enhance the effectiveness of global information and intelligence exchange and to strengthen cooperation between all Customs services tasked with combating transnational crime.



### How do RILOs Work?

The Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) is the main vehicle used by RILOS for the exchange of information and intelligence between the three levels. The CEN is an intelligence tool developed by the WCO, which serves as a global data information-gathering and communication system. Intelligence used by RILOs helps to define risk indicators, which facilitate further analysis leading to targeted operations. The CEN is used to collect, analyse and disseminate information and intelligence mainly on Customs seizures in a WCO member country. It is the only global enforcement information and intelligence tool available for Customs services. The CEN is a cost effective, internet-based

application that uses modern technology over a secure and reliable platform. It is also equipped with effective database protection, permitting access only to authorized users, by relying on encryption technology to protect communication and data transfers. As a communication tool, the CEN is high-speed, simple and user-friendly, making it both efficient and effective in facilitating the global customs network.

### The CEN is a multifunctional system which functions as:

- A database of Customs seizures and offences
- A website for the information and intelligence needs of Customs services
- A communications network to facilitate international exchanges and contacts
- A Concealment Picture Database to highlight exceptional seizures and exchange X-ray pictures

### What do RILOs do?

- Encourage information exchange and NCP reporting into the CEN
- Verify the accuracy of the CEN data supplied by NCPs
- Collect, evaluate and circulate information through the CEN on Customs offences
- Prepare and circulate alerts, intelligence profiles and regional tactical analysis as well as issue periodicals or ad hoc analysis bulletins and annual report on their activities
- Organize and support regional intelligence-based operations
- Facilitate mutual assistance and cooperation with other enforcement agencies, including the exchange of case-related operational information in accordance with relevant legal provisions and in agreement with the responsible national or regional authorities
- Promote and maintain regional cooperation between Customs administrations and between Customs and other law enforcement agencies and organizations
- Provide technical or other assistance to NCPs



### What do National Contact Points (NCP) do?

- Gather information on seizures, including all required details relating to Customs offences, from existing sources at the national level
- Enter seizure data electronically into the CEN, or submit the data to the RILO by fax or mail
- Obtain photographs of significant seizures or new and interesting concealment methods for incorporation into the CEN Concealment Picture Database which are then used to produce alerts
- Analyse information collected at the national level to identify new or unusual smuggling methods, consistent patterns, smuggling trends, etc. and enter the results into the CEN, which then produces alerts if necessary or forwards this information to the RILO
- Distribute intelligence reports, alerts and other relevant publications received from the WCO and RILOs at the national level
- Initiate and participate in special regional projects conducted by RILOs to identify new trans-border smuggling threats and trends
- Cooperate nationally with the full gamut of enforcement agencies or services
- Task the RILO with specific analytical studies and participate in the process of evaluating the effectiveness



### What is the Role of the WCO Secretariat?

- Ensures the central management of the CEN and the continuous improvement of this tool
- Carries out periodical global strategic and tactical analyses based on the information available in the CEN
- Circulates a summary of its analyses in its annual reports and keeps the RILOs informed about projects, measures and developments relevant to their region
- Outsources special tasks and studies identified by the Secretariat or WCO working bodies as priority issues to RILOs
- Offers training and technical assistance to RILOs and their members
- Shares strategic information with other international organizations engaged in combating organized crime and strengthens cooperation with them



### Quick facts

- The RILO is a regional centre for collecting and analysing data as well as for disseminating information on trends, modus operandi, routes and significant cases of fraud.
- The RILO mechanism is supported by the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN), a global data and information gathering, analysis and communication system for intelligence purposes.
- The aim of this network is to enhance the effectiveness of global information and intelligence exchange as well as cooperation between all Customs services tasked with combating transnational crime.
- The CEO/Commissioner of Customs serves as the National Contact Point (NCP) for Jamaica which facilitates the RILO.



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*The International and Industry Liaison Unit is committed to raising the level of awareness on topics relating to the Caribbean Community, as well as issues concerning the wider topic of international trade, to both our internal and external stakeholders. Our monthly newsletter seeks to highlight global trade topics and their importance to Customs Administrations worldwide and specifically how they affect the Jamaica Customs Agency. As we realize our vision of becoming a modern Customs administration delivering excellent service, we recognize the importance of knowledge transfer in delivering our objectives and use this forum as our way of contributing to the vision of the JCA. The International Liaison Unit is located at the Myers Wharf head office and our officers are available to respond to your queries and clarify any points of concern.*

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