

STATUS OF TECHNICAL ATTACHES

1. In addition to the officials on the Secretariat staff, the WCO has recourse to the services of Technical Attachés.
 2. Many countries express a keen interest in assigning officials to the WCO Secretariat to gain experience in WCO matters and international activities in general.
 3. Under the terms of this specific recruitment of Technical Attachés, national officials are attached to the Secretariat for a tour of duty financed entirely by their home administration. These officials are posted to the WCO by their home administration and retain their national salary, retirement benefits, etc. The WCO provides furnished office accommodation and the assistance of support staff, and pays for missions carried out as part of the Attachés' work. The WCO also provides insurance cover in respect of medical expenses incurred by Attachés during the period of posting. It should always be borne in mind, however, that the capacity of the Secretariat to accommodate Technical Attachés is limited.
 4. For reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, the length of the posting, agreed jointly with the home administration, should in principle not be less than three years. This period may subsequently be extended, subject to satisfactory performance and positive results. Unsatisfactory performance by a Technical Attaché during the period of posting will lead to termination of the posting.
 5. The essential qualifications for Technical Attachés are :
 - established Customs or related experience in one or more areas of WCO activity as contained in the Strategic Plan;
 - good spoken and written knowledge of one of the two official languages of the WCO (English or French).
 6. The Secretary General will inform the Members at least once a year of those Customs fields where the Secretariat has a special need for Technical Attachés, and Members will be invited to submit nominations of highly qualified experts in those fields. Selection is at the direction and discretion of the Secretary General, assisted by the Administration Committee which assesses the candidate's suitability for the position. This Committee assesses the candidate's knowledge, skills, experience, personal attributes and overall potential for assuming the responsibilities attached to the position of Technical Attaché.
 7. During their period of posting, Technical Attachés work solely on behalf of the WCO under the instructions of their line managers. They do not report to, or receive instructions from, their home administration regarding the content of their work. They are, moreover, subject to the same rules of discretion and intellectual property as the WCO's permanent or fixed-term staff. The field of their work is the same as that of Grade A3 Technical Officers.
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