

# WTO –Trade Facilitation Agreement

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# WTO –Trade Facilitation Agreement

At the WTO's Ninth Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, on December 2013, the 160 members unanimously adopted the TFA.

This agreement, which has become known as the Bali Package, aims to lower global [trade barriers](#). It is the first agreement reached through the WTO. The agreement now needs to be ratified and formally agreed by individual countries

The TFA recognizes the needs of developing and least developed countries in achieving the goals set by the agreement

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The WTO TFA categories are as follows:

- **Category A:** measures that the member will implement by the time the agreement enters into force (least developed countries can take an additional year)
- **Category B:** measures for which the member will need additional time to implement
- **Category C:** measures for which the member will need additional time and technical assistance or capacity building to implement

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**Among the issues addressed in the agreement are the following:**

- Requirements for the publication of laws, regulations, and procedures, including Internet publication
- Provision for advance rulings
- Disciplines on fees and charges and on penalties
- Pre-arrival processing of goods

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- Use of electronic payment
- Guarantees to allow rapid release of goods
- Use of "authorized economic operator" schemes
- Procedures for expediting shipments

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- Faster release of perishable goods
- Reduced documents and formalities
- Promotion of the use of a Single Window
- Uniformity in border procedures

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- Temporary admission of goods
- Simplified transit procedures
- Border Agencies Cooperation (Coordinated Border Management)
- Appeal Procedures

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- Establishment and publication of average release times (Conduct Time Release Studies)
- Application of Risk Management
- Use of Post Clearance Audit
- Use of International Standards



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- Establish and maintain a national committee on trade facilitation to facilitate domestic coordination and the implementation of the TFA agreement.