



Mercator Programme

A Navigational Map for Trade Facilitation

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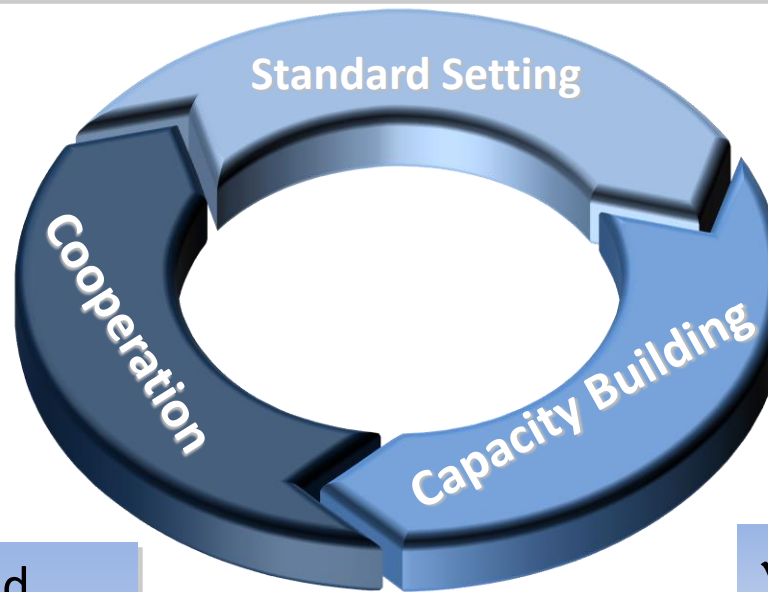
WCO tools for harmonized implementation



WCO TFA Working Group

3 Main Strengths of WCO

✓ Capability and responsibility for global standard setting for Customs



✓ Network of accredited experts from Customs Administrations
✓ Cooperation with other international organizations and other agencies

✓ Capacity Building / Technical Assistance delivery

WTO TFA and WCO

December
2013



The WTO concluded the **Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)** at the Ministerial Conference at Bali.



December
2013



The WCO adopted the Dublin Resolution to emphasize the WCO's commitment to the efficient implementation of TFA at the Policy Commission.



June
2014



The WCO adopted **the Mercator Programme** to ensure its strategic initiative to support Trade Facilitation.



November
2014



The WTO adopted a Protocol of Amendment to insert the new Agreement into the WTO Agreement.
(The TFA will enter into force once two-thirds of members have completed their domestic ratification process.)



February
2017



The TFA entered into force on 22 February 2017.

WTO TFA and WCO

WTO DG Roberto Azevêdo attended the WCO Council in June 2014. He congratulated the WCO on the creation of the new WCO Trade Facilitation Working Group and the launch the WCO Mercator Programme to support implementation of the TFA.



What is the TFA?

The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) contains 12 Articles regarding Trade Facilitation in Section I and special and differential (S&D) treatment for developing countries and Least-Developed Countries in Section II. It deals almost entirely with Customs-related topics but foresees cooperation with other agencies (CBM).

Section I

- Art.1 Publication and availability of information
- Art.2 Consultations
- Art.3 Advance ruling
- Art.4 Appeal/Review procedures
- Art.5 Other measures for transparency etc.
- Art.6 Fee, Charges and penalty
- Art.7 Release and Clearance of goods
- Art.8 Border Agency Cooperation
- Art.9 Movement of goods intended for import
- Art.10 Formalities
- Art.11 Transit
- Art.12 Customs cooperation

Section II

Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries

- Rules about Categories A, B and C
- Assistance for Capacity Building
- Information to be submitted to the TF Committee

Section III

Institutional Arrangements and Final Provisions

- Committee on Trade Facilitation
- National Committee on Trade Facilitation
- Final provisions

Mercator Programme – Key Objectives



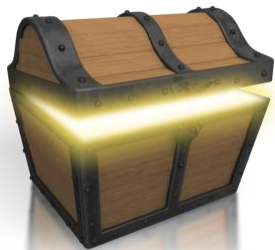
Tailor-made technical assistance and capacity building



Harmonized implementation based on WCO's global standards

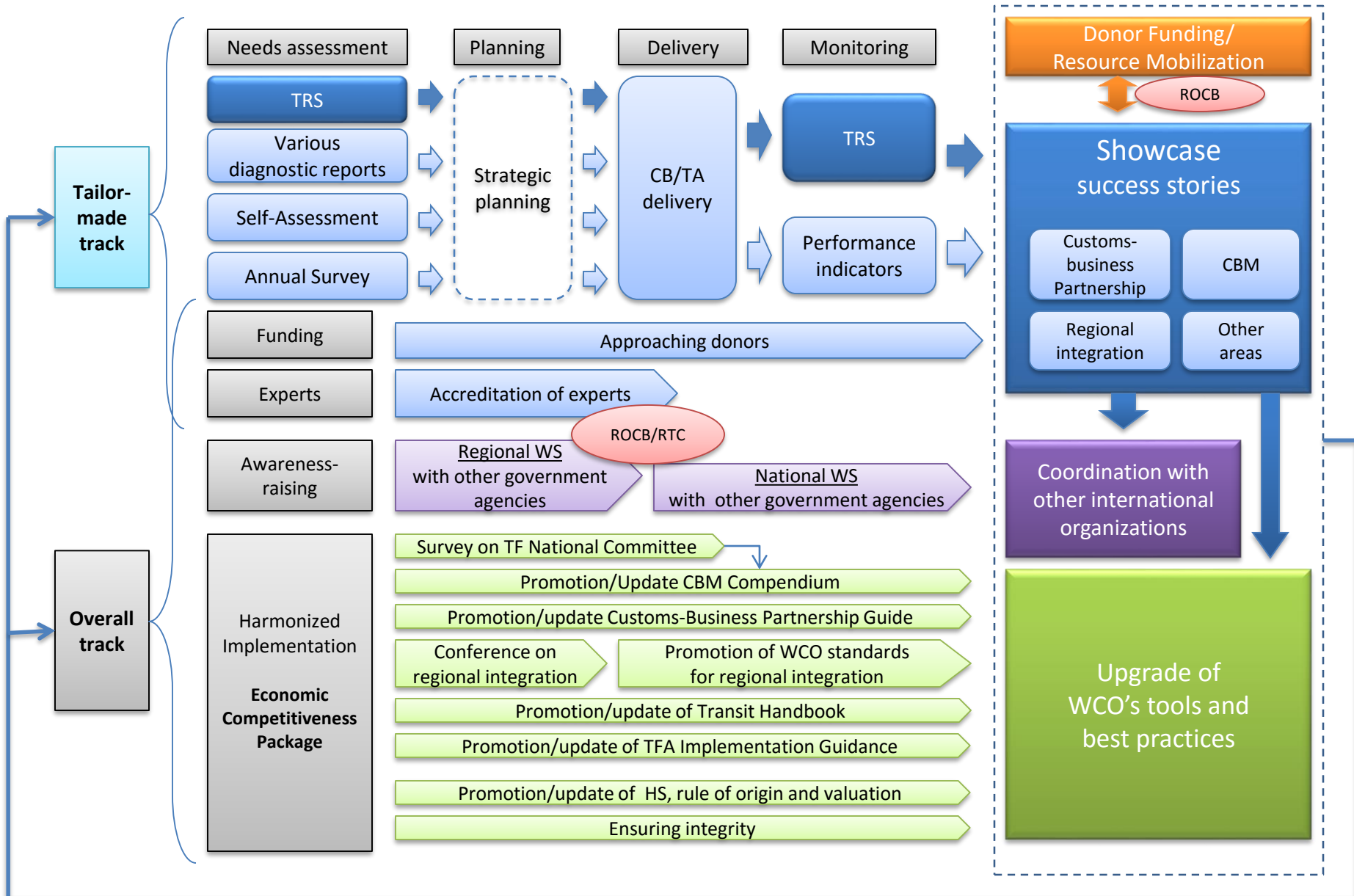


Effective coordination among all stakeholders



Beneficial for developing and least developed countries, all government agencies, donor institutions and private sector

Mercator Programme

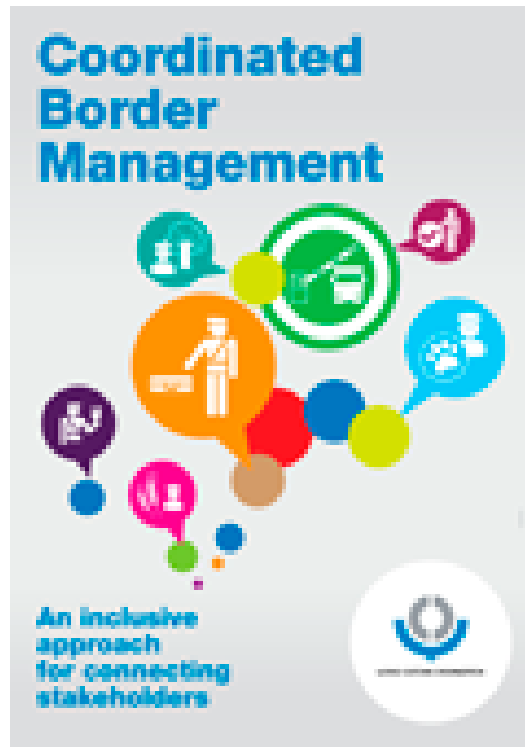


Survey on TF National Committee

The WCO is also actively supporting Members in the establishment and maintenance of TFA National Trade Facilitation Committees (NCTFs). Based on a WCO survey regarding the TFA NCTFs, 34 Members have already either established a National Committee or designated an existing body to carry out this role.



Coordinated Border Management



The 2015 International Customs Day heralded the launch of the WCO Year of Coordinated Border Management (CBM), a year in which Customs administrations are encouraged to actively promote the partnerships they have built to improve and expedite border processing.

Under the slogan “Coordinated Border Management - An inclusive approach for connecting stakeholders”, we are signaling the international Customs community’s aspiration to further enhance its collaboration, cooperation and working relationships with its many partners.

WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation:

Article 7.6

*Members are encouraged to measure and publish their average release time of goods periodically and in a consistent manner, using tools such as, inter alia, **the WCO Time Release Study.***

WCO Time Release Study

TRS Implementation by Members

Asia Pacific (22)

- ❖ Australia
- ❖ Bhutan
- ❖ Brunei
- ❖ Cambodia
- ❖ China
- ❖ Fiji
- ❖ India
- ❖ Indonesia
- ❖ Japan
- ❖ Korea
- ❖ Lao PDR
- ❖ Malaysia
- ❖ Mongolia
- ❖ Myanmar
- ❖ Nepal
- ❖ New Zealand
- ❖ PNG
- ❖ Philippines
- ❖ Singapore
- ❖ Sri Lanka
- ❖ Thailand
- ❖ Viet Nam

Africa (14 + 3)

- ❖ Angola
- ❖ Côte d'Ivoire
- ❖ Ethiopia
- ❖ Kenya
- ❖ Malawi
- ❖ Mozambique
- ❖ Nigeria
- ❖ Niger
- ❖ Rwanda
- ❖ Tanzania
- ❖ Sudan
- ❖ Swaziland
- ❖ Uganda
- ❖ Zambia

- ❖ Kenya - Uganda
- ❖ Tanzania - Burundi
- ❖ Tanzania - Rwanda

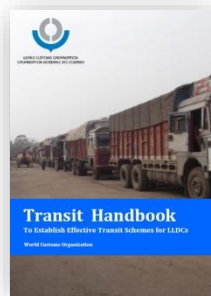
Other (9)

- ❖ Georgia
- ❖ Jamaica
- ❖ Jordan
- ❖ Macedonia
- ❖ Peru
- ❖ Poland
- ❖ Sweden
- ❖ Timor Lest
- ❖ Uzbekistan

WCO tools to support TFA

The WCO has developed a number of instruments and tools, which respond to Members' needs as regards TFA implementation. The WCO is continuing to develop and fine-tune an inter-active guidance tool designed to help Customs implement the TFA.

Examples of WCO tools



Transit Handbook



SAFE Framework of Standards



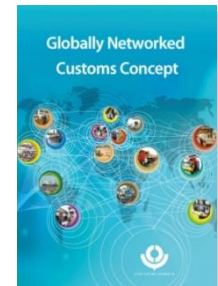
Time Release Study Guide



Single Window Compendium



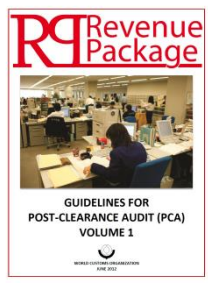
Data Model



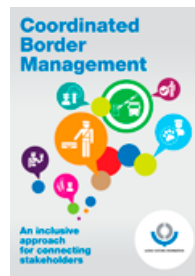
Globally Networked Customs



Risk Management Compendium



Post Clearance Audit Guidelines



CBM Compendium



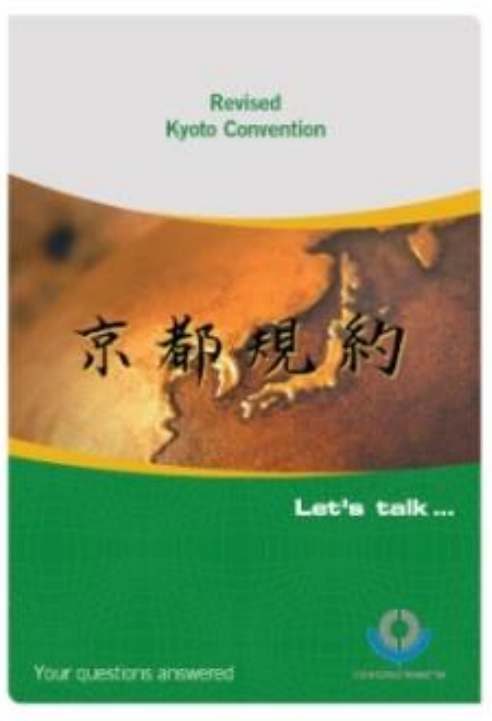
Project Map Database



Capacity Building Development Compendium



WCO Main Instrument to support TFA



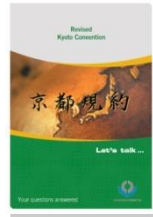
- The WCO Council adopted the revised Kyoto Convention in June 1999 as the blueprint for modern and efficient Customs procedures in the 21st century.
- Currently 108 Contracting Parties
- Was the basis for the TFA negotiations

WCO tools to support TFA

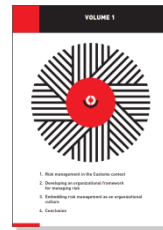
Example – Risk Management



The TFA obliges Members, to the extent possible, to adopt or maintain a risk management system for Customs control.



The RKC sets out principles of Customs risk management and the RKC Guidelines cover technical aspects of risk management and Customs control.



The Risk Management Compendium introduces detailed and technical information on risk management, based on practices and experiences of WCO Members.

Analysis of Section I

The Analysis of Section I complements the Implementation Guidance and provides more detailed information about the links between the TFA Section I provisions and the WCO instruments and tools and other WTO agreements (SPS and TBT), as well as IT implications.

WTO AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION - Analysis of Section I (and Article 23) based on the WTO TF Toolkit and potential implications on WCO -

Rev. 2, November 2014

Article in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (WT/L/931)	WCO Instruments, Tools, Guidelines (not exhaustive)	Remarks: • Overview • Links with other WTO agreements on SPS and Valuation, where applicable • Links with WCO instruments and tools • ICT considerations, where applicable	Possible implications	WCO Body concerned	Authorities concerned
ARTICLE 1: PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION					
1. Publication 1.1 Each Member shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner in order to enable governments, traders, and other interested parties to become acquainted with them: (a) procedures for importation, exportation, and transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Kyoto Convention¹ (RKC), General Annex (GA) Chapter (§) 4 (4.4), § 9 (9.1, 9.2, 9.3); Recommendation (1999) on the Use of World Wide Web sites by Customs administrations; Revised Ausha Declaration; Recommendation (2001) on the application of HS Committee Decisions; Customs Valuation 	Article 1.1 addresses publication of trade-related information (listed under Paragraph 1.1) which should be published promptly and in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner that will allow other governments, traders and interested persons to become acquainted with them. Article 1.1 is cross-cutting with Article 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4. Furthermore, Articles 6.1, 10.6, 11.14 and 11.15 foresee publication of certain types of	- Consider developing comprehensive WCO guidelines for transparency and predictability. This was discussed at the 2 nd Meeting of the TFAWG (September 2014) and at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFAWG PTC² RKCMC³ SAFE WG⁴ HSC⁵ TCCV⁶ IMSC 	It is necessary to have an arrangement in place to identify the agencies responsible for publication of trade information, to define the scope of their responsibilities and the mechanism to

¹ Whenever a reference is made to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), this refers to both the Standards in the General Annex or a Specific Annex, as well as to the accompanying RKC Guidelines.

² Permanent Technical Committee

³ Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee

⁴ SAFE Working Group

⁵ Harmonized System Committee

⁶ Technical Committee on Customs Valuation

WCO tools to support TFA

Implementation Guidance

The WCO has launched on its website the WCO Implementation Guidance for the TFA to support WCO Members in their efforts to implement the TFA

TRADE
FACILITATION

WCO IMPLEMENTING
WTO TFA



<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/wco-implementing-the-wto-atf/atf.aspx>

WCO tools to support TFA Implementation Guidance

Implementation Guidance

The World Customs Organization (WCO), an intergovernmental organization specially mentioned in the Bali Ministerial Declarations, is highlighting its role in the implementation and administration of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF). The WCO, the centre of excellence on Customs matters world wide, is committed to the efficient implementation of the ATF.

Select an article below to view more information



Search articles:

Article 1

Publication and availability of information



Article 2

Opportunity to comment, information before entry into force and consultation



Article 3

Advance rulings



Article 4

Appeal or review procedures



Article 5

Other measures to enhance impartiality, non discrimination and transparency



Article 6

Disciplines on fees and charges imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation



Article 7

Release and clearance of goods



Article 8

Border agency cooperation



Article 9

Movement of goods under customs control intended for import



Article 10

Formalities connected with importation and exportation and transit



Article 11

Freedom of transit



Article 12

Customs cooperation



WCO tools to support TFA Implementation Guidance

The Guidance presents the relevance of WCO instruments and tools such as the Revised Kyoto Convention for TFA implementation.

WCO tools for Article 7.7 (Authorized Operators)

Browse Articles ▾

Release and clearance of goods

Search articles

1	Pre-arrival Processing
2	Electronic Payment
3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges
4	Risk Management
5	Post-clearance Audit
6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times
7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators
8	Expedited Shipments
9	Perishable Goods

OVERVIEW +

WTO ATF +

REVISED KYOTO CONVENTION +

OTHER WCO TOOLS -

SAFE Framework of Standards ([download](#))

The SAFE Framework principally incorporated into its text detailed provisions on the conditions and requirements for Customs and Authorized Economic Operators (AEO), initially developed in a separate document. This addition was driven by the perception that both Customs and its business partners would benefit from having all SAFE and AEO provisions readily available in a single comprehensive instrument.

SAFE Package

The Package includes various tools relating to AEO including AEO Implementation Guidance, the AEO Compendium and Model AEO Appeal Procedures.

- AEO Implementation Guidance ([download](#))
- AEO Compendium ([download](#))
- Model AEO Appeal Procedures ([download](#))
- AEO Benefits: Contribution from the WCO Private Sector Consultative Group([download](#))
- The Authorized Economic Operator and the Small and Medium Enterprise (FAQ) ([download](#))
- Mutual Recognition Arrangement/Agreement Guidelines ([download](#))
- AEO Template ([download](#))

[print this item](#)

MEMBERS PRACTICES +

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS +

- Revised Kyoto Convention
- SAFE Framework of Standards
- AEO Implementation Guidance
- AEO Compendium
- Model AEO Appeal Procedures
- AEO Benefits: Contribution from the WCO Private Sector Consultative Group
- The Authorized Economic Operator and the Small and Medium sized Enterprise (FAQ)
- Mutual Recognition Arrangement/Agreement Guidelines
- AEO Template


WCO tools to support TFA Implementation Guidance

The Implementation Guidance introduces Members practices and experiences of implementing the TFA.

Members' experience regarding Article 10.4 (Single Window)

Browse Articles ▶

Formalities connected with importation and exportation and transit



Search articles

1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	OVERVIEW	+
2	Acceptance of Copies	WTO ATF	+
3	Use of International Standards	REVISED KYOTO CONVENTION	+
4	Single Window	OTHER WCO TOOLS	+
5	Pre-shipment Inspection	MEMBER PRACTICES	-
6	Use of Customs Brokers	Data harmonization for Single Windows: a case study from Oman (WCO News, February 2014) (download)	
7	Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	Qatar introduces the Customs Clearance Single Window (WCO News, February 2014) (download)	
8	Rejected Goods	New Zealand Single Window opens for business (WCO News, October 2013) (download)	
9	a. Temporary Admission of Goods	Nigeria develops an organic National Single Window (WCO News, October 2013) (download)	
10	b. Inward and Outward Processing	Survey of Single Window Implementation (Single Window Compendium Volume 2) The WCO Secretariat undertook a survey of Single Window Implementation. A total of 56 WCO member countries participated in the survey. The survey constitutes part of the WCO Single Window Compendium. - Single Window Compendium Volume 2 (download)	print this item
		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	+

New Zealand Single Window opens for business

IN AUGUST, THE New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) officially opened the Trade Single Window (TSW) for business, leveraging the WCO model to improve risk management and facilitation of compliant trade. New Zealand's economic wellbeing relies on efficient international travel and trade, while maintaining a secure border.

During 2012/13 NZCS processed 9.7 million international air passengers, and 6.21 million import and 3.48 million export transactions, while collecting 11,239 billion NZ dollars in revenue. With primary production currently generating more than two thirds of the country's export earnings, effective screening of arriving people, goods and craft for biosecurity risk is an ongoing concern for MPI.

NZCS and MPI have been developing their Joint Border Management System (JBMS) over the last three years. The JBMS modernizes the two agencies' border systems and allows them to better share processes, data and technology. The TSW is a key component of the JBMS, and will ultimately provide a single channel for New Zealand's international cargo industry to submit information and receive responses from border agencies.

Existing border systems
All people, goods, and craft entering and leaving New Zealand must be reported to NZCS, and this is mainly done using electronic messages based on an early United Nations trade facilitation committee data model. Airlines and shipping lines submit information about the aircraft or ship, and its cargo, crew and passengers, in messages, including Inward and Outward Cargo Reports.

Information about arriving ships and crew is currently provided in an emailed form which is shared with MPI and New Zealand's maritime safety agency and port health officers. Commercial importers and exporters or their agents have to submit more detailed information electronically to obtain Customs clearance, including import entries and export entries.

The existing Customs system manages this, identifying craft and cargo that could pose a risk, managing import and export permit controls, collating information for invoicing duty and tax, sending clearance notifications to cargo terminals, and recording the results of inspections and audits for analysis and learning.

Information on export and import cargo that is required to manage biosecurity and food safety risks is also sent to MPI systems. Importers may need to submit a Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificate (BACC) application to MPI for inbound shipping containers and many imported consignments. They are currently either sent electronically or by fax, and may be supplemented by data passed from Customs' systems.

Importers of certain foods need to email documents to a central processing office to obtain an import permit, and most animal and plant products exported from New Zealand must be accompanied by an approved export certificate which exporters apply for through MPI's export certification systems.

The existing NZCS and MPI systems lack the flexibility to respond to the increasing demands being placed on them to manage border risks while ensuring the smooth flow of trade and travel. The existing systems and border processes are not well integrated, requiring the duplication of data and processing which slows the supply chain.

While many commercial freight software products are able to join up information at the 'front end' for industry users, at the 'back end' the data is sent to the agencies separately, and updating software can be complex when there are changes.

Clients have also been limited to using one mandated 'messaging gateway' for sending electronic messages to NZCS and MPI.

A smarter, swifter border system
The JBMS initiative modernizes the two agencies' border systems and brings a fundamental change to the way NZCS and MPI

operate at the border. It will enable the agencies to work more collaboratively, with shared processes, data and technology.

The TSW will ultimately provide a single channel for importers, exporters and their agents to provide information required by border agencies. It will cut out the duplication of data and connections required for submitting information to the agencies' separate systems (see illustration).

The richer information available in new messages will be shared by NZCS and MPI to support New Zealand's border and revenue protection, and management of biosecurity and food safety risks. The country's maritime safety agency and port health officers will also access information about craft and crew, and give directions to ships via the TSW.

New message formats
The new electronic craft and cargo reporting and clearance messages are one of three key changes as a result of the TSW. They are based on Version 3.2 of the WCO Data Model (WDM3), enabling information requirements to be harmonized across the border agencies as much as possible. New Zealand border agencies have been closely involved in the development of the WDM3, and are now amongst the first agencies to use the new message formats.

These new WDM3 messages will ultimately replace the current or 'legacy' craft arrival and departure notices, inward and outward cargo reports and import and export clearance documents. The messages will be shared by the border agencies, starting with NZCS, MPI, Maritime New Zealand and port health officers.

For example, the new WDM3-based Import Declaration combines the Customs, biosecurity and prescribed food information required for clearance, in one message. Clients can move to the new WDM3 messages as they are introduced, or continue to use the current 'legacy' messages until the new messages are mandated. NZCS and MPI are consulting with industry on the mandatory date, but it will be no earlier than December 2014.

New connection options
The second key change with the TSW is the availability of new options for clients to submit messages, providing the opportunity to reduce transaction costs. Clients

Effective Coordination - Working Group

The TFAWG is the platform for Members to share experiences regarding the implementation of the TFA among the WCO's 180 Members, coordinate with the donor community, engage with other international organizations and bodies, as well as with the private sector.



The WCO is ready to support the implementation of the TFA!



MORE INFORMATION

Procedures and Facilitation team of the WCO

facilitation@wcoomd.org