



Afghanistan Customs Department

Presentation on Trade Facilitation

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Introduction

This presentation is to provide a short overview on WTO TFA ratification and the outlines of ACD's major activities for TFA implementation:

- ✓ Background;
- ✓ General information on TFA ratification;
- ✓ TFA implementation status.
- ✓ ACD's major activities.
- ✓ ACD's planned activities.

Background information on Afghanistan's WTO membership and TFA ratification

- ✓ Application for WTO Membership: November 2004.
- ✓ Instrument of acceptance of WTO Protocol of Accession: 29 June 2016.
- ✓ 164th WTO member: 29 July 2016 after nearly 12 years of negotiation.
- ✓ On 11 November 2015, the Working Party members approved the accession. The Ministers at the Nairobi Ministerial Conference approved the package on 17 December 2015.
- ✓ TFA concluded: 2013 Bali Ministerial Conference.
- ✓ TFA ratification date: 29 July 2016.
- ✓ Date of entry into force: 22 February 2017 after its ratification by two-thirds of WTO members.
- ✓ Instrument of acceptance submitted as the 90th WTO member.

TFA Implementation Status (1)

Categories of commitments for TFA implementation:

- ✓ Category A: 11.3%
- ✓ Category B: 31.1%
- ✓ Category C: 57.6%
- ✓ Publishing Customs legislation and processes (Art. 1.1 - B).
- ✓ Information available through internet (Art. 1.2 - C).
- ✓ Comments and information shared before entry into force of the procedures (Article 2.1 – C).
- ✓ Consultations (Art. 2.2 – C).
- ✓ Advance rulings (Art. 3 – C).

TFA Implementation Status (2)

- ✓ Procedures for appeal or review (Art. 4 – B) – initial draft.
- ✓ General disciplines on fees and charges (Art. 6.1 – B).
- ✓ Risk management (Art. 7.4 – B) – Policy developed (risk-based multiple criteria).
- ✓ Post-clearance audit (Art. 7.5 – B) - Procedure developed.
- ✓ Perishable goods (Art. 7.9 – B).
- ✓ Border agency cooperation (Art. 8 – C).
- ✓ Single window (Art. 10.4 - C) – Feasibility study conducted.
- ✓ Use of Customs brokers (Art. 10.6 – A)
- ✓ Customs cooperation (Art. 12 – B, C)

What ACD has Done

- ✓ One-Stop-Shop for exports at Hamid Karzai Kabul International Airport.
- ✓ Feasibility study for development of three dry ports.
- ✓ Time Release Study.
- ✓ Feasibility for Single Window and Customs trade portal.
- ✓ Developed a new website for ACD;
- ✓ Consults traders in the process of decision making and drafting legislation.
- ✓ Enacted Customs policy and procedures (procedures for PCA, advance ruling etc. and Risk Management policy) for predictability and transparency.

What ACD has planned

- ✓ Accession to RKC: it will lead to standardization, simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures.
- ✓ WTO TFA Implementation.
- ✓ Implementation of Revised Arusha Declaration: leadership and commitment, regulatory framework, transparency, automation, reform and modernization, audit and investigation, relationship with the private sector and HR Management.
- ✓ Extending the use of One-Stop-Shop to other Customs.
- ✓ Single Window implementation.
- ✓ Customs Trade Portal.
- ✓ Trade awareness programs.
- ✓ Use of Risk Management system (based on multiple criteria).
- ✓ Use of Post Audit Control for compliance purposes.
- ✓ Enhancing the use of Information Technology.
- ✓ Establishment of modern dry ports.

Challenges

- ✓ Political tension and security issues.
- ✓ Poor coordination and cooperation between border agencies.
- ✓ Poor infrastructure at the borders.
- ✓ Low capacity of the staff.
- ✓ Financial restrictions.



Thank you