

Trade Facilitation

“an Overview”

**Richard Morton, Secretary General
International Port Community Systems Association**

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The WTO

It is an organization for trade opening. It is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements. It is a place for them to settle trade disputes. It operates a system of trade rules. Essentially, the WTO is a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other.

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WTO | Members and observers of the WTO



WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

- In December 2013, WTO members concluded negotiations on a Trade Facilitation Agreement
- The TFA will enter into force once two-thirds of members have completed their domestic ratification process.
- Currently ratified by 70 of 162 members.
- The TFA contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.
- It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues.

Countries already ratified

Paraguay, Cambodia, Mali, Hong Kong China, Singapore, the United States, Mauritius, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Botswana, Trinidad and Tobago, the Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Niger, Belize, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, China, Liechtenstein, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Togo, Thailand, the European Union (on behalf of its 28 member states), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Pakistan, Panama, Guyana, Côte d'Ivoire, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Kenya, Myanmar, Norway, Viet Nam, Brunei, Ukraine, Zambia, Lesotho, Georgia, Seychelles, and Jamaica.

TFA Links to Single Window

Article 10.4 Single Window

4.1 Members shall endeavour to establish or maintain a single window

4.2 “single submission of information”

4.4use information technology to support the single window.

Section III - contains provisions that establish a permanent committee on trade facilitation at the WTO, require members to have a national committee to facilitate domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the Agreement

Single Window UNECE

Recommendation 33

Recommends Governments to establish Single Window for Cross Border Trade

Defines features:

- ... one time submission
- ..of standardized information and documents
- sharing of information amongst government agencies;
- coordinated controls and inspections of the various governmental authorities;
- Allow payment of duties and other charges;
- Be a source of trade related government information.

Single Window : a growing trend



“ Single Windows (SWs) are important **drivers** for the **simplification, harmonization** and **automation** of trade procedures”

2005: in about **20** economies

2010: in **49** economies

2014: in **73** economies

2020: in **100** economies & some regions (ASEAN, EU SW)?

Source: WB Doing Business Report 2012/2013, UNECE-UN/CEFACT 2005/2011



Who is doing what ?

- Every country will have Trade Facilitation Committee
- **WTO** – Leading on the TFA and it's ratification / enforcement
- **WCO** – Many of the TFA relate to customs so active role and have a WCO TFA Working Group
- UN and Regional Commissions – actively supporting in trade facilitation
- **UNCTAD and UNNEXT** – supporting with technical assistance
- **IMO** – Facilitation Committee and SW project

More Information

- **WTO** - https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tradfa_e/tradfa_e.htm
 - www.tfafacility.org
 - www.tfand.org
- **UN**
 - Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide - <http://tfig.unece.org/>
 - UNCEFACT - <http://www.unece.org/cefact.html>
- **WCO** - www.wcoomd.org/en
- **IMO** - <http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Facilitation/Pages/Home.aspx>

PLUS MANY OTHERS !!!!