



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



Trade Facilitation
Agreement **Facility**

TFAF

The Single Window and the WTO TFA

29th UN/CEFAT FORUM

Geneva, Switzerland, 31 March 2017

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22 February 2017: the WTO TFA entered into force

115 ratifications received from Members



94 notifications of Category A

11 Notifications of Categories B and C



Members' trade costs will be reduced by 14.3%

Time to import goods will be reduced by over 1.5 days

Time to export goods will be reduced by almost 2 days

All in all: a reduction of 47% and 91%, respectively, of current average time

Objective of the TFA



- In WTO terms TF can be understood as:

Simplification, harmonization, automation of the procedures applied to international trade, particularly the requirements and formalities related to importation and exportation with a view to further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.

- *TFA Objective: “... clarify and improve relevant aspects of Articles V, VIII and X of the GATT”* in order to:
 - Expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods
 - Improve cooperation between customs agents and other authorities
 - Enhance technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries, especially LDCs

HOW DOES THE TFA CUT **RED TAPE** AT THE BORDER FOR EASIER TRADE?



Article 1
Publication & Availability
of Information



Article 5
Measures to Enhance
Impartiality, Non-Discrimination
& Transparency



Article 9
Movement under
Customs Control



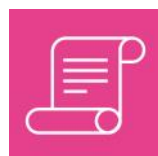
Article 2
Comment
and Consultations



Article 6
Disciplines on Fees
and Charges



Article 10
Import, Export
& Transit Formalities



Article 3
Advance
Rulings



Article 7
Release and Clearance
of Goods



Article 11
Freedom
of transit



Article 4
Procedures for
Appeal or Review



Article 8
Border Agency
Cooperation



Article 12
Customs
Cooperation



HOW DOES THE TFA CUT **RED TAPE** AT THE BORDER FOR EASIER TRADE?

EXTENDED AND ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY:

- Publish Information; opportunities to comment on information; advance rulings; inform the carrier/importer in case of detention; review/appeal procedures

RELEASE AND CLEARANCE OF GOODS:

- Pre-arrival processing; release of goods prior to final determination of duties, fees and charges; TF measures for AO; expedited release of goods entered through air cargo; prompt release of perishable goods; acceptance of paper/electronic copies; risk management systems for customs control

AUTOMATED PROCEDURES:

- Advance lodging of documents in e-forms; e-payments; e-request for advanced rulings; **Single Window**; information through internet; e-requests and e-responses between customs

FEES, FORMALITIES AND PENALTIES:

- Fees limited to the cost of services rendered; penalties imposed only to responsible persons, commensurate with the breach and, written explanation.

BORDER AGENCY COOPERATION:

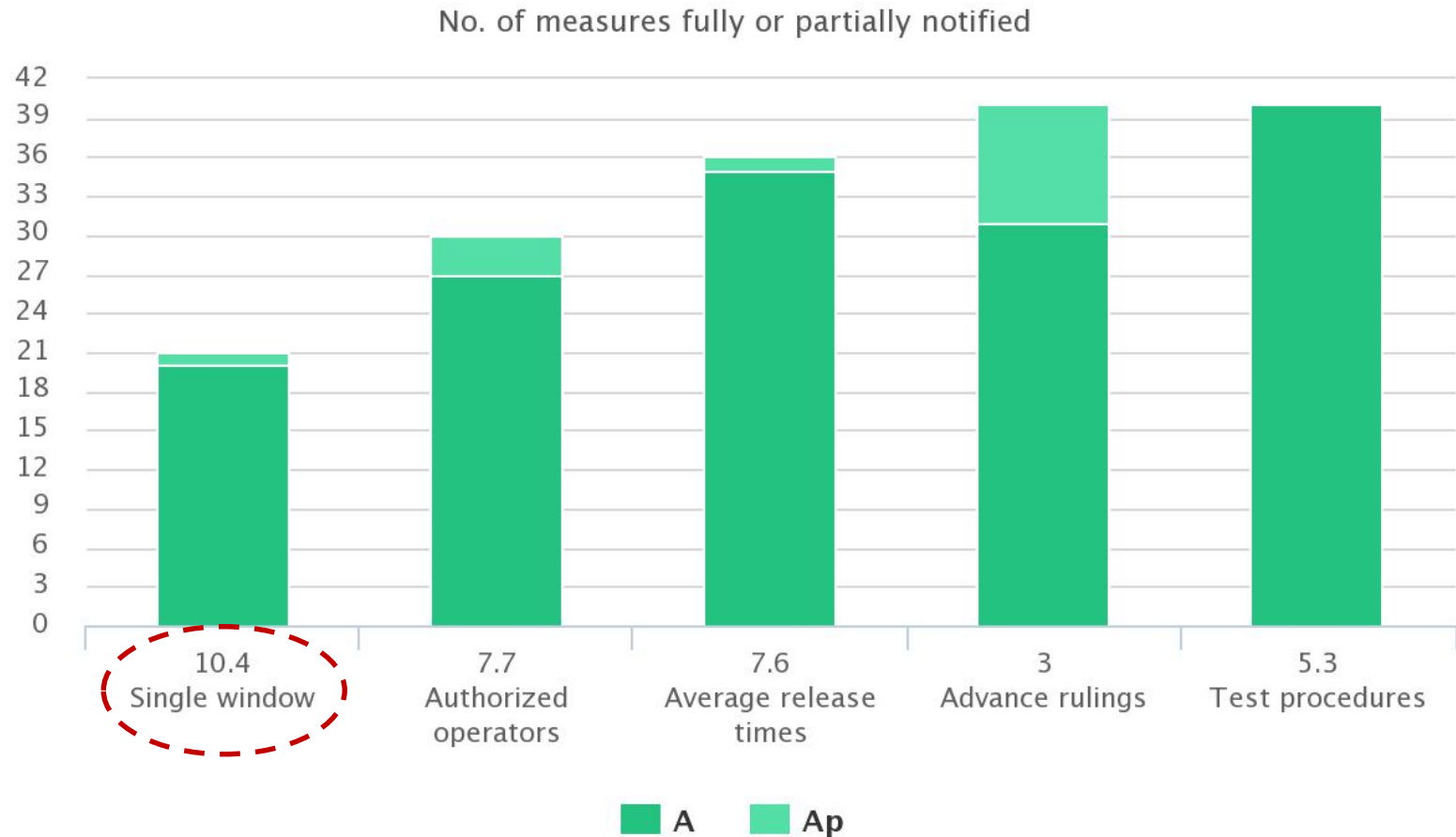
- One stop shop

The Single Window

- **Definition:**
 - An interface ?
 - A portal?
 - A mechanism?
 - A system?
 - A service?
 - **A facility?**

that allows parties involved in trade and transport (**TRADERS**) **to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements ...** (UNCEFACT Rec. 33)

The 5 least notified measures in Category A



TFAD (Trade Facilitation Agreement Database) www.tfadatabase.org

Single Window (Art. 10.4) is the least notified measure in Category A

Members that have notified Single Window (Art 10.4)

In Category A

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. Brazil | 9. Israel | 17. Singapore |
| 2. Chile | 10. Korea, Republic of | 18. Thailand |
| 3. Chinese Taipei | 11. Malaysia | 19. The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia |
| 4. Colombia | 12. Mexico | 20. Turkey |
| 5. Costa Rica | 13. Oman | 21. Uruguay |
| 6. Georgia | 14. Paraguay | |
| 7. Guatemala (partially) | 15. Qatar | |
| 8. Hong Kong, China | 16. Senegal | |

In Category B

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. Argentina | 2. India |
|--------------|----------|

In Category C

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 1. Albania | 5. Mauritius |
| 2. Chad | 6. Solomon Islands |
| 3. Fiji | 7. Zambia |
| 4. Malawi | |

The Single Window (SW)

Article 10.4

4.1 Members shall **endeavour**

- **to establish or maintain a single window,**
- enabling traders **to submit documentation and/or data requirements**
- **for importation, exportation, or transit of goods**
- **through a single entry point**
- **to the participating authorities or agencies** (... AND OTHERS)

After the examination by the participating authorities or agencies of the documentation and/or data, **the results shall be notified to the applicants through the single window in a timely manner.**

What is it?

- **What activity does this measure regulate?**

The possibility for traders **to submit documents/data to multiple government agencies** to allow **import, export or transit** of a goods shipment

The possibility for customs and other relevant authorities involved in import, export and transport procedures to notify/inform traders about their submission of documents/data

- **What authorities are directly concerned?**

All border agencies and other regulatory, control and administrative authorities, police, judicial, involved in import, export and transit procedures

Only the border agencies and other regulatory authorities?

Private stakeholders (traders, financial institutions, chambers of commerce, port and airport authorities, etc.)

What is required?

- What is the new requirement?

"One-time submission" where a trader submits required data and/or documents to the single window he/she shall not be asked again for the same information other than in exceptional cases publicly announced

Members shall use ICT to the extent possible and practicable (Art. 10.4.4)

Members shall notify the Committee of the details of operation of the SW (Art. 10.4.3)

What else?

- **Political will**
- **CO-OPERATION and COORDINATION between border agencies and other regulatory authorities (Art. 8) AND discussions within the NCTF**
- **No clinical isolation! Mapping/identification of the procedures, requirements, formalities, forms, documentation, charges, fees, controls and inspections, risk management issues, deadlines, information, deadlines, etc. related to imports, exports or transit of goods**
- **Change of mentality and cultural habits both in the public and private sectors**
- **Assessment of the TA and CB required, including human and financial resources**
- **Use of ICT tools**
- **Flow of Information between all agencies and stakeholders**
- **Permanent update and simplification of forms, formalities, requirements etc.**



Thank you!

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