

Launch of the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2025

Trade Facilitation in Central Asia: Lessons
from the COVID-19 Pandemic

15 June 2021



Trade Facilitation Agreement and COVID-19

1. Notification of trade-facilitating measures taken to mitigate COVID-19
2. Experience-sharing since September 2020 - Compendium
3. Call for accelerated implementation of the TFA
4. Calls for technical assistance and capacity-building support to mitigate COVID-19
5. National Trade Facilitation Committees and COVID-19



World Trade Report December 2020

Overview of Developments in the International Trading Environment

COVID-19 related trade-facilitating measures implemented since the beginning of the pandemic covered an estimated USD 227 billion of goods trade, while COVID-19 trade-restrictive measures covered trade worth USD 180 billion.

Of the 335 COVID-19 trade and trade-related goods measures recorded since the outbreak of the pandemic, 58 per cent were of a trade-facilitating nature and 42 per cent were trade restrictive.



Experience-sharing in the Trade Facilitation Committee

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information

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 and Penalties

Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods

Article 8: Border Agency Co-operation

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit



Provisions most often referenced in experience-sharing

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation,
Exportation and Transit: *38 Measures by 11 Members*

Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods:
15 Measures by 8 Members

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information:
5 Measures by 4 Members



Experience-sharing by Landlocked Countries

For the majority of LLDCs, many challenges were reported with regard to implementing trade facilitating measures to mitigate COVID-19.

A Member shared a number of trade-facilitating measures that they had implemented:

- Necessary safety measures adopted in customs procedures & always remained open
- Trade facilitation through virtual meeting at regional (SAARC) and bilateral levels
- Border processing based on soft copies of documents and quick response team (24 H)



Relevant TF Committee documents

The TF Committee has issued a document entitled “Compendium of Sharing Experiences Related To The Covid-19 Crisis” **(G/TFA/W/40)**

19 Co-sponsors have circulated a communication entitled

“Members Supporting the Timely and Efficient Release of Global Goods Through Accelerated Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement”

It highlights in particular provisions under articles 1, 7, 10 and 8 (Border Agency Cooperation) **(G/TFA/W/41)**



Technical Assistance and Capacity-building Support

During the experience-sharing sessions at the TF Committee, there have been

Calls by developing country and least developed country Members for renewed TACB support to mitigate the impact on trade

Expressions of TACB support by Members

Reiteration of the importance of notification of category C provisions, TACB arrangements, and progress made with regard to TACB.



National Trade Facilitation Committees and COVID-19

- Members recognize the important role of NTFC as the body to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the TFA is even further magnified in the COVID-related era.
- Time and information are vital in the current era and the NTFC has the role of ensuring transparency and coordination among all TFA stakeholders.
- Up to 18 Members have already shared the experience of their NCTF's with the Committee since 2017. They have shared the challenges in their establishment, management and how they try to address them.
tfadatabase.org/experience-sharing



National Trade Facilitation Committees and COVID-19

- The National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2025 will be an extremely document for the implementation of the TFA in the Kyrgyz Republic over the four years.
- The Kyrgyz Republic might wish to consider sharing its experience on developing its roadmap with the TF Committee at one of its future meetings.

Thank you