The Role of the WCO
Implementing the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation

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What is the WCO?

The WCO represents **179** Customs Administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately **98%** of world trade.

**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
13 Articles in Section I
S&D treatment in Section II.

Section I
Art.1 Publication and availability of information
Art.2 Consultation
Art.3 Advance ruling
Art.4 Appeal/Review procedures
Art.5 Other measures for transparency etc.
Art.6 Fee and Charges
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
Art.13 Institutional Arrangement
    (TF Committee)

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
- Final provision
Cooperation with the WTO

The WCO and the WTO have a long standing history of cooperation, including WCO management of two important WTO agreements, on Customs Valuation and on Rules of Origin.

WCO’s recent contribution to the WTO

- Supported the development of the WTO ATF Self-Assessment Guide
- Hosted a well attended training session on the Self-Assessment Guide for Customs administrations
- Actively participate in WTO’s needs-assessments missions

20 January 2014, Geneva
Cooperation with other International Organizations

The WCO has enhanced cooperation with other international organizations including other Annex D Organizations.

Example – Cooperation with UNCTAD

The WCO and UNCTAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2013 that further advances the WCO’s performance measurement approach to reform and modernization. The WCO and UNCTAD agreed to develop an “ASYCUDA World software Performance Indicators” application to assist WCO Members with their operational capacity.

5 February 2014, Geneva
Lead role at the border

Customs should take a leading role to implement the ATF as a central government agency at the border.

National Committee On Trade Facilitation

Coordinated Border Management
WCO activities cover a wide range of Customs matters, including economic competitiveness, compliance and enforcement, revenue collection and organizational development.
The WCO has developed a number of instruments and tools, which respond to Members’ needs as regards ATF implementation. The WCO is continuing to develop and fine-tune an inter-active guidance tool designed to help Customs implement the ATF.

Examples of WCO tools

- Revised Kyoto Convention
- SAFE Framework of Standards
- Time Release Study Guide
- Single Window Compendium
- Data Model
- Globally Networked Customs
- Risk Management Compendium
- Post Clearance Audit Guidelines
- CLiKC
- Project Map Database
- Capacity Building Development Compendium
- Coordinated Border Management Compendium
- Transit Handbook
- Customs/Business Partnership Guidelines

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

WCO Implementation Guidance for the ATF

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

WCO tools for Article 7.7 (Authorized Operators)

- Revised Kyoto Convention
- SAFE Framework of Standards
- AEO Implementation Guidance
- 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 Enterprise (FAQ)
- Mutual Recognition Arrangement/Agreement Guidelines
- AEO Template
The Implementation Guidance introduces Members’ practices and experiences of implementing the ATF.

**Members’ experience regarding Article 10.4 (Single Window)**

**New Zealand Single Window opens for business**

The existing Customs system manages the importing and exporting of goods, including the processing of customs declarations. The new system, called the Single Window System (SWS), is designed to streamline the process by integrating all the existing systems into one. New Zealand has been working on this project for several years, and the system is now open for business.

Existing border systems:
- All goods, vehicles, and cargo entering New Zealand must be reported to NZIS, and this is currently done using electronic messages.
- The new SWS will integrate all these systems into one platform, making the process more efficient and user-friendly.

New Zealand Single Window System:
- The SWS will allow for the submission of customs declarations, cargo manifests, and other related documents.
- It will also enable the sharing of information between different government agencies, reducing the need for multiple submissions.
- The system is designed to be user-friendly and accessible to all users, including small businesses and individual exporters.

Benefits of the SWS:
- Streamlined process: All customs-related activities will be conducted through a single platform, reducing the time and cost associated with multiple submissions.
- Improved efficiency: The system is designed to automate many of the processes, reducing the need for manual data entry.
- Enhanced security: The SWS is designed to enhance security by reducing the opportunity for manual errors and fraud.
- Better compliance: The system provides real-time updates on compliance status, allowing businesses to make adjustments in real-time.

Overall, the SWS represents a significant improvement in New Zealand’s border management system, and it is expected to have a positive impact on the economy and the environment.
Article 11 Freedom of Transit

• Fees and Charges, Regulations and Formalities (paragraph 1-3)
• Strengthened non-discrimination (paragraph 4) \textit{Treatment preceding transit;}
• Transit Procedures and Controls (para. 5-10);
• Guarantees (paragraph 11.1-11.5);
• Cooperation and coordination (paragraph 12-13)
The WCO Instruments and Tools Relating to Transit

ATA carnet and Instanbul Convention
RKC Chapter 1-2 Specific Annex E
WCO instruments (AEO, guidance for a secure and efficient transit system) support GATT V

• Guarantee system
• Risk management
• Regional transit system (example: EU NCTS)
• ICT
The WCO will provide Members with practical assistance to implement the ATF through its network of Customs experts.

The WCO Database has more than 400 accredited experts from Members.

The Project Map Database supports donor and project coordination.
A Time Release Study was carried out in a northern corridor of the East African Community (EAC). EAC Members undertook the TRS in part of a northern corridor from Mombasa sea port in Kenya to an inland customs office in Kampala, Uganda with technical support from the WCO, based on the WCO TRS Guide.
The WCO has extensive experience in managing projects with donors along results-based management principles.

The WCO has enjoyed support from various governments and development agencies to fund its various technical assistance and capacity building programmes and projects.

Currently, the WCO is managing a number of projects that operate under the modality and that benefit from funding from SIDA, Finland, DFID, US State Department and World Bank.
WCO Working Group on the ATF

The ATFWG is the platform for Members to share experiences regarding the implementation of the ATF among its 179 Members, coordinate with the donor community, engage with other international organizations and bodies, as well as with the Private Sector.

- Analyse ATF and prepare relevant actions
- Set new standards or modify existing tools
- Discuss technical assistance activities
- Donor information
- Report to PTC/CBC/Policy Commission/Council
The WCO is ready to support the implementation of the ATF!

MORE INFORMATION

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