

PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Update/maintenance mechanism for the Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce

1. THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (PTC), provided that the Annexes to the Cross-border E-Commerce Framework of Standards are concluded at the June 2020 Policy Commission, has decided to establish a periodic review process to maintain and update the Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce (hereafter “Framework”), to adapt with evolving business models and emerging issues across the global E-Commerce supply chain.
 2. The periodic review process of the Framework should be carried out under a “two-tier review mechanism” that provides for:
 - *Annual review* of at least two annexes each year, as determined by the PTC, which provides regular opportunities to update annexes in response to emerging and/or time-critical E-Commerce issues; and,
 - *A four-year periodic review of the Framework*, to provide for the comprehensive review of the entire Framework, including those annexes that have not been considered as part of the annual review.
 3. The PTC should establish appropriate governance arrangements and review processes for each review, to ensure that any changes to the Framework are done in a periodic, orderly and transparent manner.
 4. The timing of the first review will be as follows:
 - The first periodic review of the Framework should be completed in financial year 2021/2022, four years after the adoption of the Framework in 2018, with the intention to provide appropriate lead time for WCO Members to implement the existing Framework and to gather experiences and case studies that could be used to inform this review; and,
 - The first annual review of at least two annexes should commence in financial year 2020/2021.
 5. The review should be discussed and conducted mainly during the PTC meetings together with necessary intersessional work. Furthermore, in order to ensure the efficiency of discussions, the review may require in-person meetings alongside one of the PTC meetings where critical points are raised and discussed among Members with involvement also of relevant stakeholders.
 6. WCO Members, the Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG) or authorized observer organizations will notify the Secretariat of their proposed updates to the Framework. Such requests will be reviewed by the Secretariat and will be maintained until such time as the next periodic review meeting and/or annual review is scheduled.
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