

# How to make it a reality?

## Adoption will require:

- Review of existing hardware and software applications
- Development of a business model and a cost / benefit analysis
- Engagement with senior managers involved in policy, IT and operations
- Engagement with border regulatory agencies if the Single Window is to be part of the business model
- Development of an implementation strategy that will include business process redesign and change management
- Engagement with private sector and industry groups

## Governments already using it should:

- Inform themselves about existing take-up experiences and check progression towards full potential benefits
- Ensure feedback to the WCO Secretariat to help improve presentation and explanation in promoting use of the Data Model by other Customs administrations and cross-border regulatory agencies
- Report developments to Ministers responsible for trade facilitation negotiations, the economy and finance
- Promote the concept of the Data Model and its Single Window benefits

## Governments not yet using it could:

- Ensure that their strategic management, operational and technical staff are fully informed about the nature, virtues and operational requirements of the Data Model
- Encourage regular contact with WCO experts to facilitate take-up of the Data Model at the earliest practical opportunity, particularly in relation to the installation, revision or replacement of automated systems
- Organize seminars and workshops to acquaint their commercial operators with the Data Model's characteristics and advantages
- Check that any current aid or development project affecting their public administrations takes due account of the possible benefits that emanate from implementing the Data Model
- Undertake familiarization missions to countries who have implemented the Data Model in order to better understand its functionalities and contribution to enhanced border management

*"The WCO Data Model represents a much needed innovation in terms of harmonisation and standardisation of data elements needed to support the implementation of the Customs Data Principles contained in the Revised Kyoto Convention and the WCO Framework of Standards. The adoption and implementation of Version 3 of the Data Model will provide participating stakeholders with a unique opportunity to improve the overall cross-border regulatory control and trade facilitation environment of international trade."*

*Tom Doyle*, Senior Border Management Specialist,  
International Trade Department, The World Bank

## YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact the **WCO Data Model Project Team** by email [dm@wcoomd.org](mailto:dm@wcoomd.org) for a speedy response.

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WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

# WCO DATA MODEL

cross-border transactions  
on the fast track

Facilitating trade

## Why do you need it?

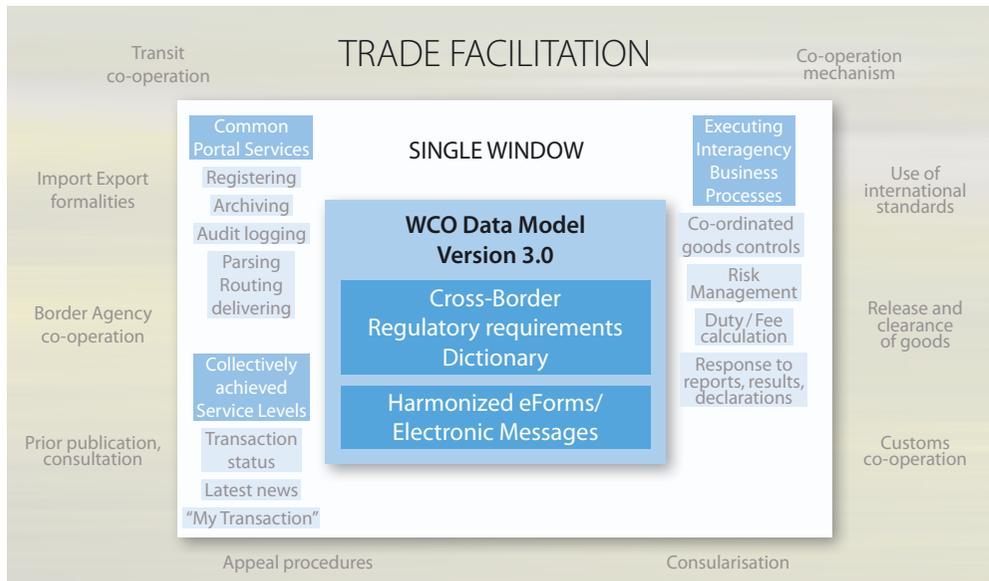
The key to trade facilitation and an efficient global trading system is an interconnected electronic environment where data is exchanged electronically.

In today's world, the imperatives for economic growth and expansion, and the emergence of new regulations relating to security and environmental protection among others call for even more efficiency in the way in which we deal with trade transactions. We must therefore minimise any potential cross-border trade constraints, use modern technology and apply uniform global standards.

Over the years, however, there has been little co-ordination in the development

of automated systems and as a result, thousands of data in hundreds of different formats fly all over the globe creating barriers to international trade. An average international trade transaction involves 27-30 different parties, some 40 documents with 200 data elements among which about 30 of them are repeated and 60-70% is re-keyed at least once!

The WCO Data Model is the solution for optimized electronic data exchange, providing a global standard for cross-border data requirements needed for the release and clearance of goods; the result being a saving on costs and time for governments and the trade.



## What is it?

### A universal language for cross-border data exchange

The WCO Data Model is a set of carefully combined data requirements that are mutually supportive and which will be updated on a regular basis to meet the procedural and legal needs of cross-border regulatory agencies such as Customs, controlling export, import and transit transactions. It is consistent with other international standards such as the United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDDED).

### A multi-agency tool

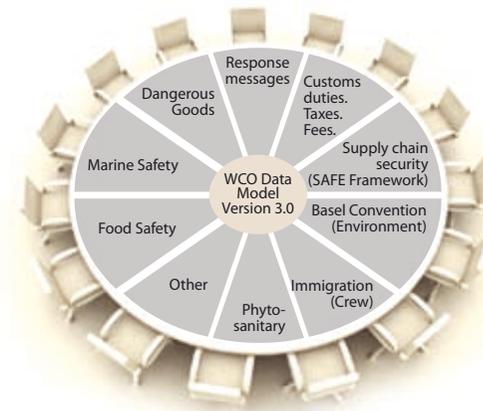
As well as covering all Customs operational needs, the Data Model meets the additional information requirements for a Single Window environment by providing for:

- Conveyance reporting
- Cargo reporting
- Agricultural and veterinary requirements
- Food safety
- Marine safety (ISPS)
- Environmental protection (Hazardous Waste)
- Immigration requirements (Crew)
- Response messages for all cross-border Single Window-related government agencies

### A complete toolbox of standards

To ensure wide-spread acceptance and usage the Data Model comprises:

- a comprehensive dictionary of data required to exchange and process legally required cross-border information associated with Single Window applications
- standardised electronic message guidelines and other supporting implementation documents
- an agreed maximum data set for export, import and transit



## What are the benefits?

### In conventional Customs practices, the Data Model will:

- Facilitate trade by providing a global standard for data requirements needed for the release of goods via electronic means
- Reduce costs to government and trade for standards and systems maintenance as well as future development requirements
- Decrease the cost of regulatory reporting while enhancing the quality of reported data
- Eliminate redundancy in data collected from and submitted by economic operators

### Taking on board current Single Window developments, it can:

- Provide all competent official control agencies with a common platform for regulatory data exchange thus enabling the early sharing of information
- Offer international traders a simplified interface with Customs and multiple government agencies as well as a single access point to carefully focused, fully comprehensive regulatory requirements
- Enhance risk management with minimum calls on commercial operators as the critical data needs of all related cross-border regulatory agencies can be met by a single submission to the Single Window

- Enable Customs to build up inter-agency operational links and practices that will offset or minimise operational costs, investments and staff normally associated with border controls.

### As part of Customs' vision for a globally networked Customs, it enhances cooperation by:

- Providing all cross-border regulatory agencies and their trade partners with a common operational vocabulary, language and syntax
- Endowing Single Window in individual countries with the same data standards which will open up new perspectives for networking on global border management
- Enabling Customs to set up easy, reliable and rapid interchanges of relevant import and export data which will have exactly the same meaning for all concerned
- Acting as a platform for co-ordinated and collaborative border management which will ensure open but secure borders

