The WCO Data Model is a common language for information exchange between different stakeholders in the cross-border trade and movement of goods and passengers. It is a compilation of a wide range of rules, regulations, and standards that ensure widespread acceptance and usage. The Data Model is designed to meet the operational and legal requirements of Customs and other cross-border regulatory agencies, ensuring that all stakeholders can work together in a consistent and harmonized way.

WHAT IS IT?

- The United Nations Trade Data Elements
- The operational and legal requirements of government agencies
- Reusable sets of data definitions and structured, harmonized, standardized language for information exchange between stakeholders

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Facilitates trade by providing a global standard for data requirements needed for the release of goods via electronic means
- Reduces costs to government and trade in terms of standards and systems maintenance, as well as future development requirements
- Decreases the cost of regulatory reporting, while enhancing the quality of reported data
- Eliminates unnecessary intermediaries by providing direct access to government services
- Enhances data in its collected form and submitted by economic operators
- Harmonizes and implements new policies and programmes, such as AEO programmes and AEO MRAs, and ensures delivery of associated benefits

IN A CROSS-BORDER REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT, THE DATA MODEL WILL:

- Support seamless exchange of information between economic operators and government agencies
- Enable electronic communication that minimizes operational costs, investment and staff resource normally associated with border controls
- Provide a common operational vocabulary, language and interface with Customs and multiple government agencies, as well as offer a single access point to meet regulatory requirements of all
- Enhance the risk management capability of all involved cross-border regulatory agencies, as they share critical data needs that can be met by a single submission to the Single Window
- Enable Customs to build in the Single Window operational communication that maximizes operational costs, investment and staff resources normally associated with border controls

AS PART OF CUSTOMS’ VISION FOR A DIGITAL CUSTOMS, IT ENHANCES COOPERATION BY:

- Ensuring that all stakeholders are engaging and communicating with the same vocabulary and language
- Making the Single Window environment a reality
- Providing all competent cross-border regulatory agencies with a common language
- Ensuring that all stakeholders are engaging and communicating with the same vocabulary and language
- Providing all cross-border regulatory agencies and their trade partners with a common standard and vocabulary

GOVERNMENTS ALREADY USING THE DATA MODEL SHOULD:

- Engage with the work of the WCO on the Data Model and its related WCO instruments and tools
- Undertake familiarization missions to countries which have implemented the Data Model, so that they can better understand its functionalities and contribution to enhanced border management
- Develop a concrete action plan for the adoption of the WCO Data Model

GOVERNMENTS NOT YET USING THE DATA MODEL COULD:

- Ensure that their strategic management, operational and technical staff are fully informed about the benefits and operational requirements of the Data Model
- Undertake the Single Window action plan for the adoption of the WCO Data Model

ADOPTION WILL REQUIRE:

- Development of an implementation strategy that will include business process re-engineering and change management
- Development of a business model and cost/benefit analysis
- Provision of the necessary regulatory framework
- Engagement with senior management involved in policy, IT and operations
- Engagement with other cross-border regulatory agencies and the Single Window is to be part of the business model
- Engagement with private sector and industry groups
- Review of existing hardware and software applications
- Engagement of a skilled and dedicated project team consisting of business and IT specialists

IN SINGLE WINDOW ENVIRONMENTS, IT CAN:

- Provide all competent cross-border regulatory agencies with a common language
- Engage with the work of the WCO on the Data Model and its related WCO instruments and tools
- Undertake familiarization missions to countries which have implemented the Data Model
- Develop a concrete action plan for the adoption of the WCO Data Model

THE DATA MODEL COULD:

- Ensure that all stakeholders are engaging and communicating with the same vocabulary and language
- Provide all cross-border regulatory agencies with a common standard and vocabulary
- Ensure the availability of resources needed to implement the WCO Data Model
- Provide feedback to the WCO Secretariat to help improve the WCO Data Model and ensure its proper functioning by other Customs administrations and cross-border regulatory agencies
- Promote the concept of the Data Model and its benefits
A GLOBAL STANDARD FOR SEAMLESS CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS

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

In today’s world, the imperatives of economic growth and expansion, combined with the emergence of new approaches to security and environmental protection, call for more efficient ways in which we deal with trade transactions. Customs administrations and other regulatory authorities need to maximize cross-border transactions through the use of modern technology and application of uniform global standards.

Over the years, however, there has been little co-ordination in the development of automated systems. As a result, thousands of pieces of data in hundreds of different formats have created barriers to international trade. An average international trade transaction involves 27-30 different parties, and some 200 data elements – of which about 30 are exported and 60-70% are re-keyed at least once!

The WCO Data Model is the solution for achieving optimized electronic data exchange, providing a global standard for cross-border data requirements needed for the release and clearance of goods, and helping administrations conform to international standards. Use of the Data Model as the international data exchange standard could potentially result in significant savings in costs and time for governments and trade.

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