Implementing the WCO Data Model in Oman

Objectives

Simplify and harmonize data using the WCO Data Model in the National Single Window developed by the Royal Oman Police, facilitate the use of international data standards for documentation in export, import, and transit operations, and implement the principles of Coordinated Border Management.

Project outline

The Directorate General of Customs of the Royal Oman Police in the Sultanate of Oman is in the process of developing a new Customs system and Single Window based on international best practices, and using WCO Data Model version 3.3 as the basis for the messaging and data components. The challenge lies in capturing all of the requirements and accurately documenting the processes and data involved in ‘business-to-government’ (B2G) processes. The WCO Data Model has helped Oman in effectively engaging with Customs and its partner government agencies to capture and document data requirements, and develop a standardized data set for Oman.

In Oman, Customs arranged data capture on 110 key documents, identifying 3,783 data elements. Oman then produced its first draft standardized data set, which included exactly 200 data elements. Oman was able to map the data elements to the WCO Data Model thanks to the transparent processes of the WCO Data Model Project Team, which allow Members to seek technical support. Such dramatic reduction and simplification of data was possible due to diligent work carried out by experts from Oman Customs and its service providers.

A key challenge is the non-Customs data, i.e. the data required by other border control agencies. In addition to the ‘Declaration’ and ‘Response’, WCO Data Model v3.3 also includes an information package called ‘LPCO’, which stands for Licences, Permits, Certificates and Others. These are essential for Single Windows, or at least those that aim to provide a ‘one-stop-shop’ for import/export cargo clearance. In conclusion, the WCO Data Model provides a very rich Customs data set as a result of years of data analysis work done by WCO Members.

Outcomes

- The Sultanate of Oman has launched a project to develop and implement an Integrated Customs Management system and Single Electronic Window for all import, export and transit processes. The project uses the harmonized and simplified data set based produced on the basis of international standards.