

World Customs Organization supports LLDCs

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an independent intergovernmental organization established in 1952. The WCO represents 179 Customs administrations around the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade. As the global centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the voice of the international Customs community.

Three main strengths of the WCO

✓ Standard setting

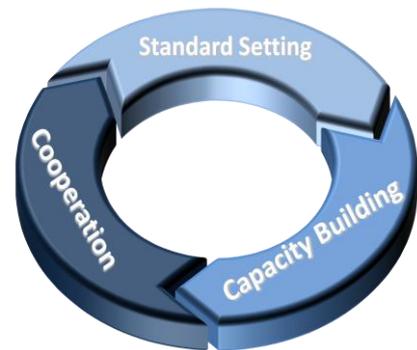
The WCO develops and maintains instruments, standards and tools related to all Customs competencies including trade facilitation.

✓ Capacity building

The WCO delivers capacity building, technical assistance, and training to requesting Customs administrations to assist them with reform and modernization.

✓ Cooperation

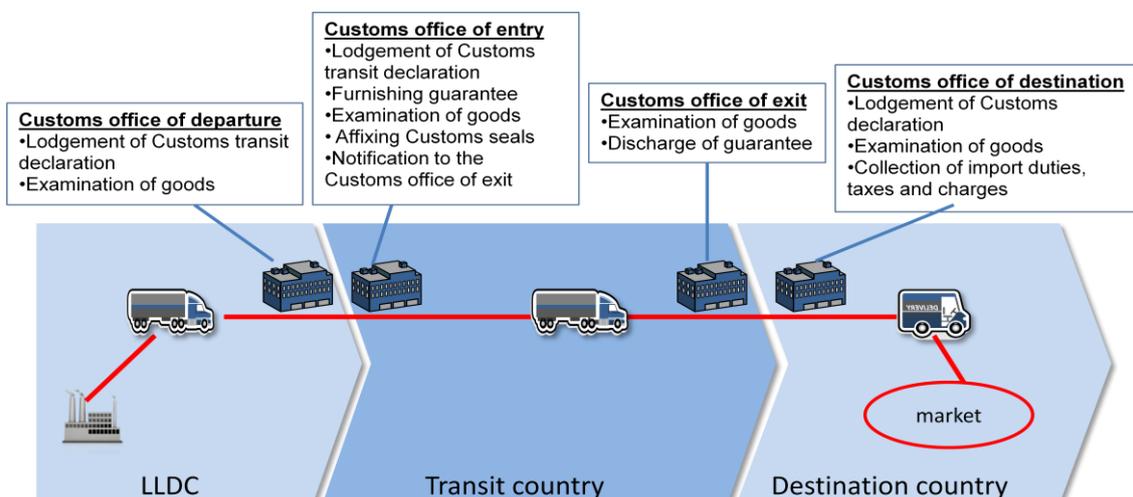
The WCO provides a platform for dialogue, information exchange and partnership.



The importance of Customs administrations for LLDCs

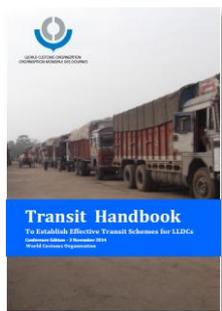
Because of their lack of access to the sea, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) must rely on transit through other countries. The additional border crossings and long distances from the market substantially increase their total transport expenses. A transit operation inevitably involves Customs administrations, and good Customs transit procedures are essential to the smooth operation of international trade, thereby contributing to the economic development of LLDCs.

To develop an effective and efficient transit system, a number of factors should be considered. For instance, well-designed guarantee systems that cover the payment of import duties, taxes and other charges are essential for the smooth movement of transit goods. Information sharing among Customs offices and streamlined documentation flows make transit procedures straightforward and transparent.



Main WCO tools and instruments for effective transit regimes

Transit Handbook



The WCO Transit Handbook deals with various aspects of the operation of Customs transit procedures, and is accordingly intended to serve as a practical guide to assist WCO Members to develop a functional and effective transit system which may contribute to the enhancement of economic competitiveness and secure their revenue. In particular, this Handbook helps developing and least-developed Members to assess the effectiveness of their transit schemes and identify any further improvements needed.

Revised Kyoto Convention



The Revised Kyoto Convention is the quality standard for a modern, well-functioning Customs administration. The Revised Kyoto Convention provides a comprehensive set of uniform principles for simple, effective and predictable Customs procedures with effective Customs control. The Convention was adopted in 1999 and has 96 Contracting Parties.

Time Release Study Guide



The Time Release Study provides guidance to Customs administrations on the best way to review, jointly with other agencies in a cross-border and coordinated border management environment, the time required for the release of goods, and to take potential corrective measures for continuous improvement.

Capacity building

With a wealth of expertise and experience in global Customs technical assistance and capacity building, including a network of accredited experts at its disposal and comprehensive donor engagement mechanisms, the WCO provides tailor-made support for establishing effective transit regimes. You may submit requests for assistance to the WCO at any time.

Example of capacity building - Time Release Study in the East African Community

A Time Release Study was carried out in a northern corridor of the East African Community (EAC). It was based on a regional need to measure the performance of an international corridor. EAC Members undertook the TRS in part of a northern corridor from Mombasa seaport in Kenya to an inland Customs office in Kampala, Uganda, with technical support from the WCO, based on the WCO TRS Guide.

They found bottlenecks in the smooth movement of cargo, such as delays in the lodgement of the Customs declaration, infrastructure, system interfaces and the business hours of government agencies, and agreed recommendations to improve these aspects.

Based on the results of the pilot TRS, in March 2014 the EAC Secretariat, along with all the EAC Member States and with the support of the WCO, launched an international TRS in the central corridor from Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) to Kigali (Rwanda) and Bujumbura (Burundi).

Further information

For further details about the WCO's transit activities, please contact the WCO's Procedures and Facilitation team: (facilitation@wcoomd.org).