Mercator Programme
A Navigational Map for Trade Facilitation

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27 May 2015
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WTO TFA and WCO

Strategic Plan

Vision

Customs in the 21st Century

- Trade Facilitation & Security
- Fair & Efficient Revenue Collection
- Protection of Society
- Institutional & Human Resource Development

International Cooperation

Raising Profile, Capacity Building Delivery

Research

Values & Mission
3 Main Strengths of WCO

- Capability and responsibility for global standard setting for Customs
- Network of accredited experts from Customs Administrations
- Cooperation with other international organizations and other agencies
- Capacity Building / Technical Assistance delivery
The WTO concluded the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) at the Ministerial Conference.

The WCO adopted the Dublin Resolution to emphasize the WCO’s commitment to the efficient implementation of TFA at the Policy Commission.

The WCO adopted the Mercator Programme to ensure its strategic initiative to support Trade Facilitation.

The WTO adopted a Protocol of Amendment to insert the new Agreement into the WTO Agreement. (The TFA will enter into force once two-thirds of members have completed their domestic ratification process.)
WTO DG Roberto Azevêdo attended the WCO Council in June 2014. He congratulated the WCO on the creation of the new WCO Trade Facilitation Working Group and the launch the WCO Mercator Programme to support implementation of the TFA.
The **Mercator projection** is a cylindrical map projection presented by the Flemish geographer and cartographer Gerardus Mercator in 1569. The Mercator projection enabled mariners to plot straight courses and take correct compass readings, thus supporting trade. It became fundamental to understanding the world and ultimately led to increased interconnectivity.
Mercator Programme – Key Objectives

- Tailor-made technical assistance and capacity building
- Harmonized implementation based on WCO’s global standards
- Effective coordination among all stakeholders

Beneficial for developing and least developed countries, all government agencies, donor institutions and private sector
Mercator Programme

Tailor-made track
- Needs assessment
- Various diagnostic reports
- Self-Assessment
- Annual Survey

Overall track
- Funding
- Experts
- Awareness-raising

Harmonized Implementation
- Economic Competitiveness Package

Planning
- Strategic planning

Delivery
- CB/TA delivery

Monitoring
- Performance indicators

Approaching donors
- Accreditation of experts
- Regional WS with other government agencies
- National WS with other government agencies
- ROCB/RTC

Survey on TF National Committee
- Promotion/Update CBM Compendium
- Promotion/update Customs-Business Partnership Guide
- Conference on regional integration
- Promotion of WCO standards for regional integration
- Promotion/update of Transit Handbook
- Promotion/update of TFA Implementation Guidance
- Promotion/update of HS, rule of origin and valuation
- Ensuring integrity

Showcase success stories
- Donor Funding/Resource Mobilization

Coordination with other international organizations
- Customs-business Partnership
- CBM
- Regional integration
- Other areas

Upgrade of WCO’s tools and best practices
The WCO is also actively supporting Members in the establishment and maintenance of TFA National Trade Facilitation Committees (NCTFs). Based on a WCO survey regarding the TFA NCTFs, 25 Members (out of the 68 Members who have so far replied to the survey) have already either established a National Committee or designated an existing body to carry out this role.
WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation:

Article 7.6

Members are encouraged to measure and publish their average release time of goods periodically and in a consistent manner, using tools such as, inter alia, the WCO Time Release Study.
WCO Time Release Study

Arrival of cargo

Shipping company
Shipping agent
Port Authority, etc.

Unloading/Storage

Importer,
Customs broker
Container Yard
OGAs, etc.

Submission of Declaration

Customs,
Bank,
Customs broker

Customs release permission

Port Authority
Container Yard
Warehouse, Forwarder, etc.

Removal of cargo
### TRS Implementation by Members

#### Asia Pacific (20)
- Australia
- Bhutan
- Brunei
- Cambodia
- China
- Fiji
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Korea
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- New Zealand
- PNG
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

#### Africa (12 + 3)
- Angola
- Cote d’Ivoire
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Swaziland
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Kenya - Uganda
- Tanzania - Burundi
- Tanzania - Rwanda

#### Other (6)
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Peru
- Poland
- Sweden
- Uzbekistan
The WCO has developed a number of instruments and tools, which respond to Members’ needs as regards TFA implementation. The WCO is continuing to develop and fine-tune an interactive guidance tool designed to help Customs implement the TFA.

Examples of WCO tools
The WCO Council adopted the revised Kyoto Convention in June 1999 as the blueprint for modern and efficient Customs procedures in the 21st century.

- Currently 99 Contracting Parties
- Was the basis for the TFA negotiations
Example – Risk Management

The TFA obliges Members, to the extent possible, to adopt or maintain a risk management system for Customs control.

The RKC sets out principles of Customs risk management and the RKC Guidelines cover technical aspects of risk management and Customs control.

The Risk Management Compendium introduces detailed and technical information on risk management, based on practices and experiences of WCO Members.
The Analysis of Section I complements the Implementation Guidance and provides more detailed information about the links between the TFA Section I provisions and the WCO instruments and tools and other WTO agreements (SPS and TBT), as well as IT implications.

### WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation

**Analysis of Section I (and Article 23) based on the WTO TF Toolkit and potential implications on WCO**

**Rev. 2, November 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (WT/L/931)</th>
<th>WCO Instruments, Tools, Guidelines (not exhaustive)</th>
<th>Remarks:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ARTICLE 1: PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION</strong></td>
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<td>Article 1.1 Each Member shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner in order to enable governments, traders, and other interested parties to become acquainted with them: a. procedures for importation, exportation, and transit</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), General Annex (GA) Chapter (§) 4 (4.4), § 9 (9.1, 9.2, 9.3); - Recommendation (1969) on the Use of World Wide Web sites by Customs administrations; - Revised Anusha Declaration; - Recommendation (2001) on the application of HS Committee Decisions;</td>
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<td>- Customs Valuation; Article 1.1 addresses publication of trade-related information (listed under Paragraph 1.1) which should be published promptly and in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner that will allow other governments, traders, and interested persons to become acquainted with them. Article 1.1 is cross-cutting with Article 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4. Furthermore, Articles 6.1, 10.6, 11.14 and 11.15 foresee publication of certain types of</td>
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<td>- Consider developing comprehensive WCO guidelines for transparency and predictability. This was discussed at the 2nd Meeting of the TFAWG (September 2014) and at</td>
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<td>It is necessary to have an arrangement in place to identify the agencies responsible for publication of trade information, to define the scope of their responsibilities and the mechanism to</td>
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1. Wherever a reference is made to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), this refers to both the Standards in the General Annex or a Specific Annex, as well as to the accompanying RKC Guidelines.
2. Permanent Technical Committee
3. Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee
4. SAFE Working Group
5. Harmonized System Committee
6. Economic Committee on Customs Valuation

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**Notes:**

- TPWG
- PTI
- RKC/MC²
- SAFE
- WGT
- HSC
- TCOT
- IMSC
The WCO has launched on its website the WCO Implementation Guidance for the TFA to support WCO Members in their efforts to implement the TFA

Implementation Guidance

The World Customs Organization (WCO), an intergovernmental organization specially mentioned in the Bali Ministerial Declarations, is highlighting its role in the implementation and administration of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF). The WCO, the centre of excellence on Customs matters worldwide, is committed to the efficient implementation of the ATF.

Select an article below to view more information:

- **Article 1**: Publication and availability of information
- **Article 2**: Opportunity to comment: information before entry into force and consultation
- **Article 3**: Advance rulings
- **Article 4**: Appeal or review procedures
- **Article 5**: Other measures to enhance impartiality, non discrimination and transparency
- **Article 6**: Disciplines on fees and charges imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation
- **Article 7**: Release and clearance of goods
- **Article 8**: Border agency cooperation
- **Article 9**: Movement of goods under customs control intended for import
- **Article 10**: Formalities connected with importation and exportation and transit
- **Article 11**: Freedom of transit
- **Article 12**: Customs cooperation
The Guidance presents the relevance of WCO instruments and tools such as the Revised Kyoto Convention for TFA implementation.

WCO tools for Article 7.7 (Authorized Operators)

- Revised Kyoto Convention
- SAFE Framework of Standards
- AEO Implementation Guidance
- AEO Compendium
- Model AEO Appeal Procedures
- AEO Benefits: Contribution from the WCO Private Sector Consultative Group
- The Authorized Economic Operator and the Small and Medium sized Enterprise (FAQ)
- Mutual Recognition Arrangement/Agreement Guidelines
- AEO Template
The Implementation Guidance introduces Members' practices and experiences of implementing the TFA.

Members’ experience regarding Article 10.4 (Single Window)
The TFAWG is the platform for Members to share experiences regarding the implementation of the TFA among the WCO’s 180 Members, coordinate with the donor community, engage with other international organizations and bodies, as well as with the private sector.
This year’s International Customs Day heralds the launch of the WCO Year of Coordinated Border Management (CBM), a year in which Customs administrations are encouraged to actively promote the partnerships they have built to improve and expedite border processing.

Under the slogan “Coordinated Border Management - An inclusive approach for connecting stakeholders”, we are signaling the international Customs community’s aspiration to further enhance its collaboration, cooperation and working relationships with its many partners.
Thank you for your attention!