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.

“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
WCO Data Model

- Organises information requirements for a modern customs administration
- Based on standardised business processes described in the Revised Kyoto Convention
- Complies with international conventions on trade & transport reporting
- Helps implement advanced reporting requirements including the SAFE Framework of Standards
- Enables participation in Customs-to-Customs information exchange programmes

When used in a Single Window environment, the WCO Data Model

- Provides all official border control agencies with a common platform for regulatory data exchange thus enabling the early sharing of information
- Enhances 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
- Offers 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
- Enables 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