



Memorandum of Understanding
between
the World Customs Organization
and
the South African Revenue Service
regarding
the Establishment of a World Customs Organization
Regional Training Centre in Pretoria, South Africa

The World Customs Organization¹, hereinafter referred to as the WCO, and the South African Revenue Service, hereinafter referred to as the SARS :

ACKNOWLEDGING the enormous challenges facing Customs administrations due to increasing volumes of trade, globalization of trade, and regional integration;

ACKNOWLEDGING that changing trading patterns, the need for more facilitation of trade and the requirement to produce more with limited resources calls for enhanced co-operation among Customs administrations and with the WCO;

RECOGNIZING that international and regional co-operation provides a useful framework for the promotion of Customs effectiveness and efficiency;

RECOGNIZING that the dissemination of information, training and technical assistance are indispensable for the uniform implementation of key Customs-related international conventions, recommendations and other standards;

RECOGNIZING that the WCO provides relevant and meaningful training and technical assistance to its Members;

¹ Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.

RECOGNIZING the important role and the significant potential of South Africa in supporting the World Customs Organization in its efforts to provide assistance to WCO Members;

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The WCO and the SARS will establish a WCO Regional Training Centre, hereinafter referred to as the Training Centre, in Pretoria, South Africa. The WCO will use the facilities of the Training Centre for the purposes of regional training, technical assistance meetings and other Customs-related events.

Article 2

In order to achieve the objectives laid down in Article 1, the SARS will make available to the WCO its Customs Training Centre located in Pretoria.

Article 3

The SARS will continue to run the Training Centre, and use it for its own national and international programmes.

Article 4

1. The Parties will communicate to each other their training plans in order to define the use of the facilities of the Training Centre. The WCO should give advance notice of not less than 2 months before each planned event, along with the necessary information to confirm the event.
2. Within one month from the date of signing of this Memorandum of Understanding the Parties will designate liaison officers to co-ordinate matters arising from its implementation.

Article 5

Technical conditions for the use of the Training Centre

The SARS will make available classrooms, together with regular training aids, meeting rooms, residential rooms and other service facilities of the Training Centre, for use by the WCO.

Article 6

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party at any time, by written notification. This Memorandum of Understanding shall cease to have effect immediately after the receipt of such notification by the other Party.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding can be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties, in written form.

Done in Pretoria, on this 4th day of December 2003 in two copies in the English language.



Michel Danet
Secretary General
For the World Customs Organization



Pravin Gordhan
Commissioner
For the South African Revenue Service