

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND MONGOLIA

Revision

The following communication, dated 9 July 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of the European Communities and Mongolia.

AUTHORIZED TRADERS

1. The following text is a revision of the original proposal communicated by the EC which was previously circulated under the WTO document TN/TF/W/109.

Textual proposal

Authorized traders

- In addition to the facilitation measures provided to all operators set out in this Agreement, Members shall apply further simplified import and export formalities for economic operators, including SME's, which meet specific criteria related to compliance with customs requirements ("authorized traders"):
- These specific criteria may include the following: (1) an appropriate record of compliance with customs requirements; (2) a system of managing records to allow for necessary controls; (3) financial solvency (including, where appropriate, provision of a sufficient security/guarantee); and/or (4) an appropriate system of security and safety standards.
- The additional facilitation measures for such authorised traders shall include:
 - (1) the possibility of periodic declarations and payment of duties,
 - (2) reduced physical inspections in all but exceptional circumstances,
 - (3) reduced documentary and data requirements as determined by domestic legislation, and the right to submit for processing a single document covering all goods contained in a consignment, and
 - (4) more rapid release time.

- Additional facilitation measures may also include:
 - (5) local clearance,
 - (6) remote filing.
 - The specific criteria to qualify as an authorized trader shall not be designed or applied so as to afford or create arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.
 - Members shall use objective risk management techniques in the assessment of any application for authorized trader status.
 - Members shall draw upon relevant international standards and instruments as a basis for authorized trader schemes, where such standards and instruments exist, except when they would be an inappropriate or ineffective means for the fulfilment of the legitimate objectives pursued.
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