



Coordinated Border Management

Facilitating trade through communication, cooperation and coordination

International engagement

- The WCO and its highest decision-making bodies, the Council and the Policy Commission, as well as its working bodies, such as the Permanent Technical Committee, the Enforcement Committee, and other subsidiary working and expert groups, actively engage with other international inter-governmental organizations.
- The WCO cooperates with institutions that set standards for other cross-border regulatory agencies, such as Codex Alimentarius, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention and the World Animal Health Organization; the only standard setting bodies recognized under the World Trade Organization's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement.
- The WCO has concluded numerous Memoranda of Understanding with several international organizations representing the interests of other cross-border regulatory agencies, to provide a concrete platform for sharing information, strengthening mutual collaboration, expanding research and creating a useful knowledge base.
- The WCO organized an Inter-Agency Forum on Coordinated Border Management in 2009 that brought together representatives from Customs, other cross-border regulatory agencies, academia and the trading community, to highlight the importance of coordinated border management and discuss possible models for further coordination at the border.

Instruments and tools

- WCO instruments and tools acknowledge the importance of coordinated border management which is considered as one of the building blocks for modern border management.
- The WCO Revised Kyoto Convention on the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures contains several standards that specifically deal with coordinated border management, such as coordinating opening hours, performing joint controls and setting up juxtaposed Customs offices, all of which facilitate trade.

- The WCO Coordinated Border Management Compendium offers guidance to Customs in implementing coordinated border management at a national level and includes the latest developments and practices in this field.
- The WCO SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade provides guidance on how Customs can cooperate with other cross-border regulatory agencies at a national and international level.
- The WCO Guide to Measure the Time Required for the Release of Goods (Time Release Study) responds to the requirements of cross-border cooperation and inter-agency coordination, and thus helps countries understand and deal with border management challenges.
- The WCO Data Model is the solution for optimized electronic data exchange, providing a global standard for cross-border data requirements needed for the release and clearance of goods; the result being a saving on costs and time for governments and the trade.
- Dematerialization of supporting documents to facilitate cross-border trade flows is another effort being undertaken by the WCO under the framework of the WCO Data Model, in collaboration with international organizations, such as the Secretariat for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Supporting a 'one-stop-shop' at the border

- In response to the number of Single Window systems being implemented around the world, the WCO advocates the integration of stand-alone border agency systems into one unified Single Window.
- The WCO Compendium on "How to Build a Single Window Environment" provides guidance to Customs, covering the people, legislation and processes involved in addition to the technology and legal considerations, and includes examples of what this structure may look like in a multi-stakeholder environment.
- Version 3.0 of the WCO Data Model covers the data requirements for a Single Window environment not only for Customs, but also for other government agencies which facilitates border management and promotes inter-agency cooperation agencies.

www.wcoomd.org