



# The Single Window and the WTO TFA

6th Edition of

**THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW CONFERENCE**

Accra, Ghana, 3-5 October 2017

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22 February 2017: the WTO TFA entered into force

115 ratifications received from Members



94 notifications of Category A

11 Notifications of Categories B and C



**Members' trade costs will be reduced by 14.3%**

**Time to import goods will be reduced by over 1.5 days**

**Time to export goods will be reduced by almost 2 days**

**All in all: a reduction of 47% and 91%, respectively, of current average time**

# Objective of the TFA



- In WTO terms TF can be understood as:

Simplification, harmonization, automation of the procedures applied to international trade, particularly the requirements and formalities related to importation and exportation with a view to further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.

- *TFA Objective: “... clarify and improve relevant aspects of Articles V, VIII and X of the GATT”* in order to:
  - Expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods
  - Improve cooperation between customs agents and other authorities
  - Enhance technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries, especially LDCs



# HOW DOES THE TFA CUT RED TAPE AT THE BORDER FOR EASIER TRADE?



**Article 1**  
Publication & Availability  
of Information



**Article 5**  
Measures to Enhance  
Impartiality, Non-Discrimination  
& Transparency



**Article 9**  
Movement under  
Customs Control



**Article 2**  
Comment  
and Consultations



**Article 6**  
Disciplines on Fees  
and Charges



**Article 10**  
Import, Export  
& Transit Formalities



**Article 3**  
Advance  
Rulings



**Article 7**  
Release and Clearance  
of Goods



**Article 11**  
Freedom  
of transit



**Article 4**  
Procedures for  
Appeal or Review



**Article 8**  
Border Agency  
Cooperation



**Article 12**  
Customs  
Cooperation

# HOW DOES THE TFA CUT RED TAPE AT THE BORDER FOR EASIER TRADE?



## EXTENDED AND ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY:

- Publish Information; opportunities to comment on information; advance rulings; inform the carrier/importer in case of detention; review/appeal procedures

## RELEASE AND CLEARANCE OF GOODS:

- Pre-arrival processing; release of goods prior to final determination of duties, fees and charges; TF measures for AO; expedited release of goods entered through air cargo; prompt release of perishable goods; acceptance of paper/ electronic copies; risk management systems for customs control

## AUTOMATED PROCEDURES:

- Advance lodging of documents in e-forms; e-payments; e-request for advanced rulings; **Single Window**; information through internet; e-requests and e-responses between customs

## FEES, FORMALITIES AND PENALTIES:

- Fees limited to the cost of services rendered; penalties imposed only to responsible persons, commensurate with the breach and, written explanation.

## BORDER AGENCY COOPERATION:

- One stop shop

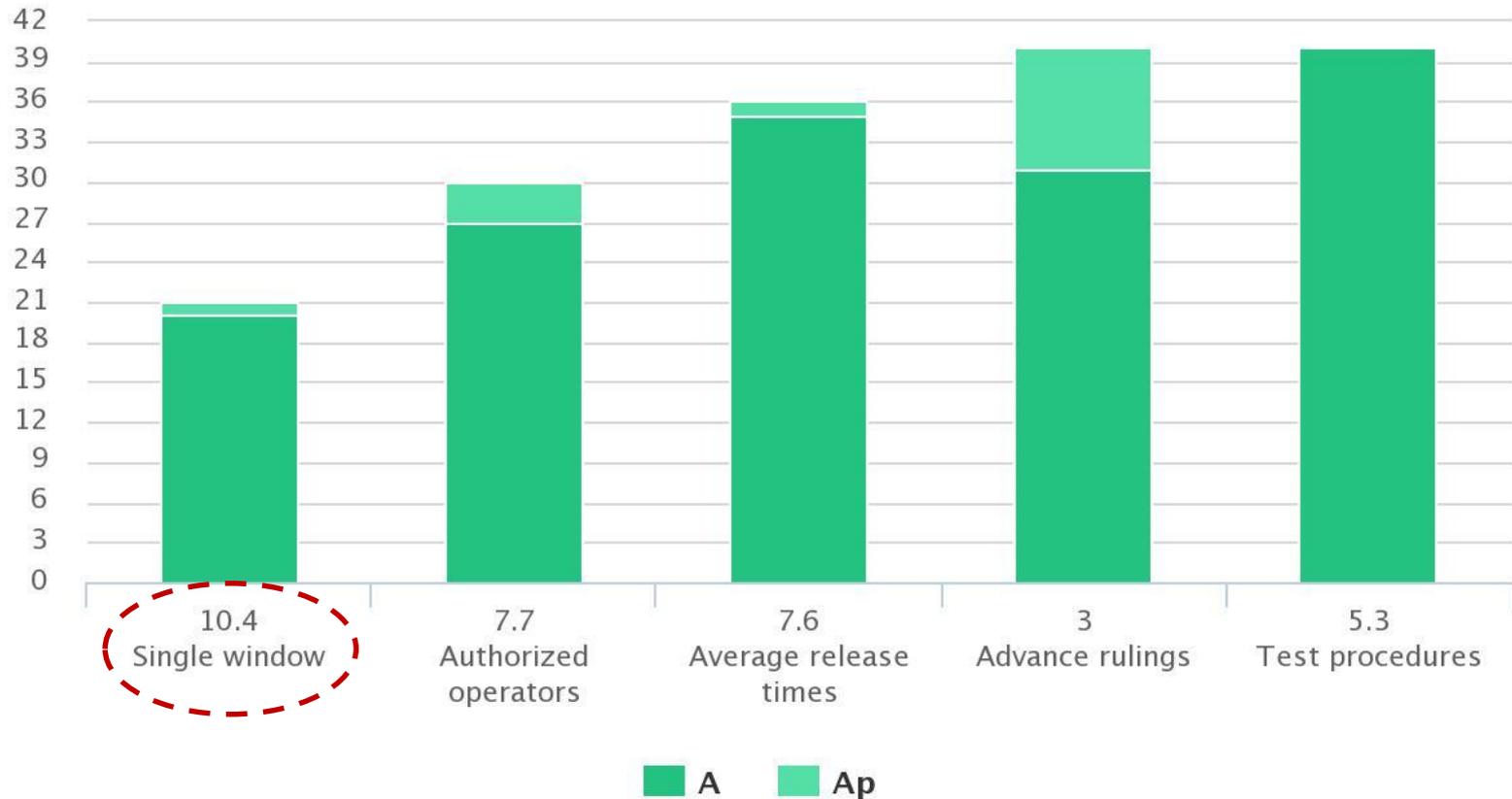
# The Single Window

- **Definition:**
  - An interface ?
  - A portal?
  - A mechanism?
  - A system?
  - A service?
  - **A facility?**

that allows parties involved in trade and transport (**TRADERS**) **to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements ...** (UNCEFACT Rec. 33)

## The 5 least notified measures in Category A

No. of measures fully or partially notified



TFAD (Trade Facilitation Agreement Database) [www.tfadatabase.org](http://www.tfadatabase.org)

Single Window (Art. 10.4) is the least notified measure in Category A

# Members that have notified Single Window (Art 10.4)

## In Category A

- |                          |                        |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. Brazil                | 9. Israel              | 17. Singapore                                    |
| 2. Chile                 | 10. Korea, Republic of | 18. Thailand                                     |
| 3. Chinese Taipei        | 11. Malaysia           | 19. The former Yugoslav<br>Republic of Macedonia |
| 4. Colombia              | 12. Mexico             | 20. Turkey                                       |
| 5. Costa Rica            | 13. Oman               | 21. Uruguay                                      |
| 6. Georgia               | 14. Paraguay           |  |
| 7. Guatemala (partially) | 15. Qatar              |  |
| 8. Hong Kong, China      | 16. Senegal            |  |

## In Category B

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. Argentina | 2. India |
|--------------|----------|

## In Category C

- |            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| 1. Albania | 5. Mauritius       |
| 2. Chad    | 6. Solomon Islands |
| 3. Fiji    | 7. Zambia          |
| 4. Malawi  |                    |

# The Single Window (SW)

## Article 10.4

4.1 Members shall **endeavour**

- to establish or maintain a single window,
- enabling traders to submit documentation and/or data requirements
- for importation, exportation, or transit of goods
- through a single entry point
- to the participating authorities or agencies (... AND OTHERS)

After the examination by the participating authorities or agencies of the documentation and/or data, **the results shall be notified to the applicants through the single window in a timely manner.**

# What is it?

- **What activity does this measure regulate?**

The possibility for traders **to submit documents/data to multiple government agencies** to allow **import, export or transit** of a goods shipment

The possibility for customs and other relevant authorities involved in import, export and transport procedures to notify/inform traders about their submission of documents/data

- **What authorities are directly concerned?**

All border agencies and other regulatory, control and administrative authorities, police, judicial, involved in import, export and transit procedures

**Only the border agencies and other regulatory authorities?**

Private stakeholders (traders, financial institutions, chambers of commerce, port and airport authorities, etc.)

# What is required?

- **What is the new requirement?**

**"One-time submission"** where a trader submits required data and/or documents to the single window he/she shall not be asked again for the same information other than in exceptional cases publicly announced

**Members shall use ICT to the extent possible and practicable (Art. 10.4.4)**

**Members shall notify the Committee of the details of operation of the SW (Art. 10.4.3)**

# What else?

- **Political will**
- **CO-OPERATION and COORDINATION between border agencies and other regulatory authorities (Art. 8) AND discussions within the NCTF**
- **No clinical isolation! Mapping/identification of the procedures, requirements, formalities, forms, documentation, charges, fees, controls and inspections, risk management issues, deadlines, information, deadlines, etc. related to imports, exports or transit of goods**
- **Use of international standards: HS nomenclature, country codes, incoterms, standard forms**
- **Change of mentality and cultural habits both in the public and private sectors**
- **Assessment of the TA and CB required, including human and financial resources**
- **Use of ICT tools**
- **Flow of Information between all agencies and stakeholders**
- **Permanent update and simplification of forms, formalities, requirements etc.**

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**Thank you!**

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