

Single Windows & e-Commerce

International Single Window Conference & Exhibition

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UN / CEFACT

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Single Window definition

Recommendation 33 defines a Single Window as a facility :

- Allows **parties** involved in trade and transport to lodge **standardized information and documents** with a **single entry point** to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related **regulatory requirements**
- If electronic, then **individual data elements should only be submitted once**

Parties involved in trade and transport

Standardized information and documents

Single entry point

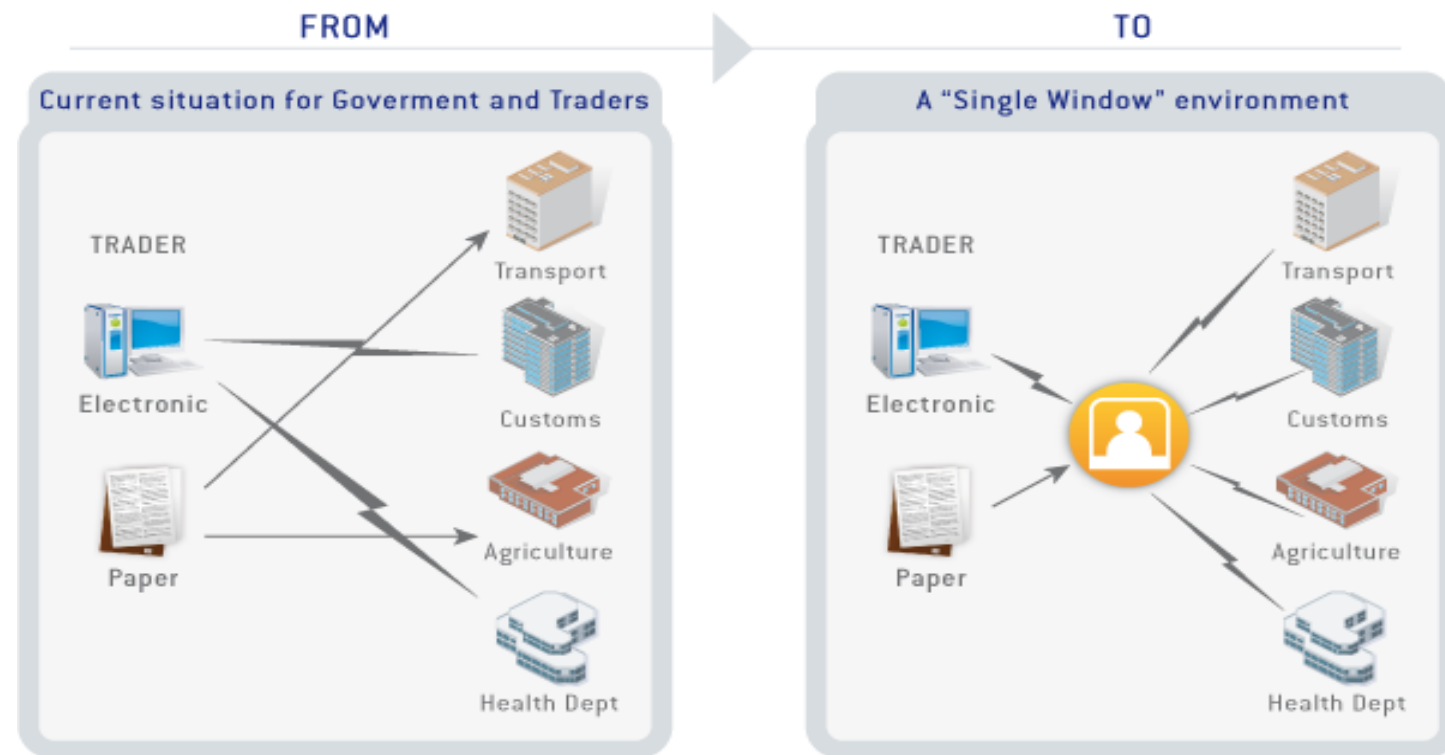
Regulatory requirements

Single submission of individual data elements

Source: "Recommendation and Guidelines on establishing a Single Window to enhance the efficient exchange of information between trade and government," Recommendation 33, United Nations, 2005

Single Window definition

- Above all, Single Window is meant to be a **trade facilitation** mechanism
- A platform for collaboration between stakeholders
- Technology only a tool



Standardized information and documents

UN/CEFACT Recommendation 1:

UN Layout Key

- Endorsed in the **WCO Revised Kyoto Convention** and the **WTO TF Agreement**
- Provides a common basis for the layout of trade-related documents and the information they contain
 - Basis for the **EU Single Administrative Document (SAD)**
 - Endorsed by key international organizations
- All data elements in UNLK aligned documents have electronic equivalents in UN/EDIFACT, ebXML
- Recommendation text is currently being revised and updated

UN TDED:

Trade Data Element Directory

The diagram illustrates the layout key for a European Community Export Customs Declaration, showing the structure and data elements of the document. The form is organized into several sections, each with a specific UN/EDIFACT code and description. The sections include:

- DECLARATION:** Contains elements such as Declaration number (1), Country of origin (2), Party (3), Date of issue (4), and Reference number (7).
- ACCOUNTING DETAILS:** Contains elements such as Total (10), Taxable (11), Duty (12), and Accounting details (13).
- OFFICE OF DEPARTURE:** Contains elements such as Office of departure (14), Date (15), and Office of destination and country (16).

The layout key is organized into several horizontal bands, each representing a different section of the document. The elements are numbered and labeled with their respective UN/EDIFACT codes, such as '1 Declaration number', '2 Country of origin', '3 Party', '4 Date of issue', etc. The diagram also includes a legend for 'UN TDED' and a copyright notice for 'United Nations Electronic Trade Documents (UN/EDOC)'.

Standardized information and documents

Harmonized regulatory declarations:

- Different CBRAs often prescribe overlapping data requirements
- For a Single Window, data is harmonized for trade transactions and transport movements
- No need to submit the same data repeatedly to different agencies.

CBRA =
Cross Border Regulatory Agency

Source: "WCO Compendium: How to Build a Single Window Environment. Volume 1: The Executive Guide" WCO, 2011.
<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/single-window/~media/252D1BF37A814526BF5BFFEAB7F13692.ashx>

Single entry point



Single entry point

CBRA-to-CBRA information sharing:

- Logical consequence of harmonized regulatory declarations.
- Enables the shared or separate application of controls by the respective CBRAs.

Harmonized CBRA response:

- Each CBRA may process its responses independently
- The Single Window provides a single harmonized response to the trader

CBRA =
Cross Border Regulatory Agency

Source: "WCO Compendium: How to Build a Single Window Environment. Volume 1: The Executive Guide" WCO, 2011. Op cit.

Regulatory requirements

Table 8. Costs of trade in cotton yarn from India to Bangladesh

Steps	Procedures	Average Cost in United States dollars*
1	Obtain export permit	46.74
2	Contract registration and inspection	2.72
3	Excise inspection	5.43
4	Obtain cargo insurance	222.83
5	Arrange pre-shipment inspection	24.46
6	Obtain certificate of origin	10.87
7	Obtain SAFTA certificate	21.74
8	Submit customs declaration online	18.48
9	Arrange transport for loading	14.13
10	Transfer to LCS (inland transportation charge)	154.35
11	Parking of goods	9.78
12	Customs clearance	-
13	Send the goods to importer's warehouse	10.87
	Export process cost in India	542.39 (945.00)
14	Assembling and preparing documents	150.00
15	L/C Cost	10.00
16	Customs clearance	15.00
17	Ports and Terminal handling costs	120.00
18	Inland transportation and handling costs	120.00
	Import process cost in Bangladesh	415.00 (1 375.00)
	Total trade process cost	957.39

Source: Calculated based on ARTNeT Working Papers 93 and 95.

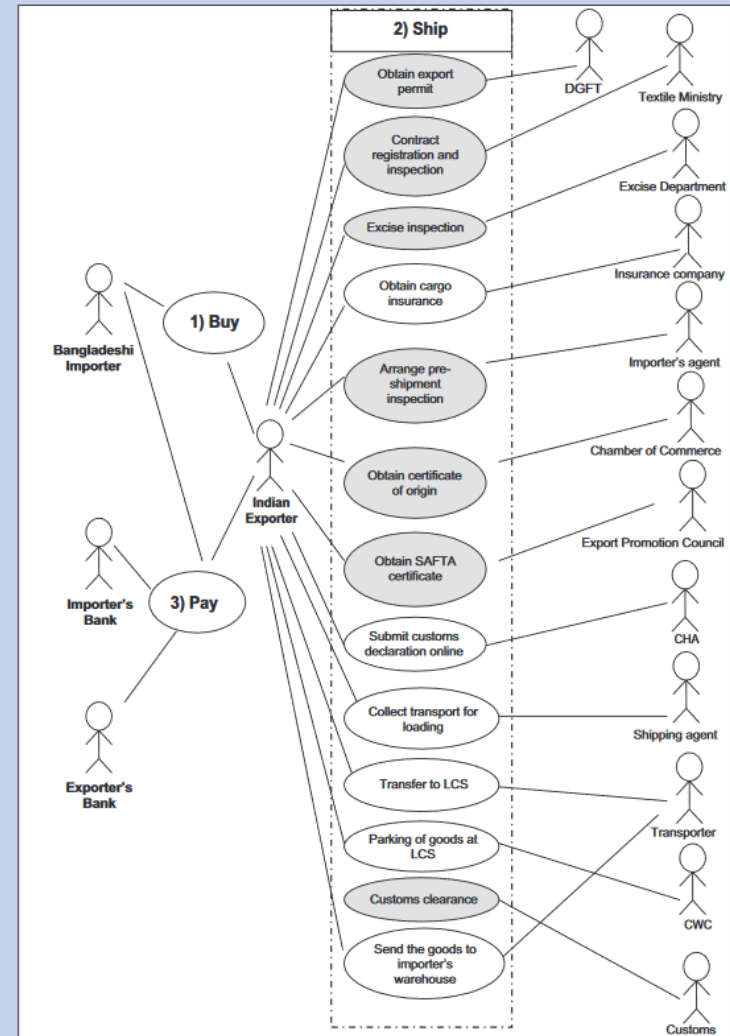
Notes: Import tariffs and international shipping costs are excluded.

*Per TEU. Data in parentheses represents Doing Business Data of World Bank for export (import) of a standard container.

Source: UNESCAP Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific: An analysis of Import and Export Processes, United Nations 2011

<http://unnex.unescap.org/pub/tipub2615.pdf>

Box 3. UML Case Diagram: Export of fabric from India to Bangladesh



Source: ARTNeT Working Paper 95.

Single submission of individual data elements

<p>Certificate of Origin A Certificate of Origin certifies expressly that the goods to which the certificate relates originate in a specific country. Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand</p>	<p>Permit for the Export of Rice (A. 4) Permit for the Export of Rice (A. 4) is only given to rice exporters who follow the Ministry of Commerce's Regulation for Rice Exportation 1997. Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand</p>	<p>Certificate of Standards of Products (MS. 24) Certificate of Standards of Products (MS. 24) certifies that the rice to be exported has the quality set by importer. Board of Trade of Thailand</p>
<p>9 Marks and numbers on packages TDED 7102: Marks and numbers identifying individual packages an..512 (Min=1, Max= unbounded)</p>		<p>18 Marks and numbers on packages TDED 7102: Marks and numbers identifying individual packages an..512 (Min = 1, Max = unbounded)</p>
<p>10-2 Description of goods TDED 7002: Plain language description of the nature of a goods item sufficient to identify it for customs, statistical or transport purposes an..512 (Min=1, Max= unbounded)</p>	<p>13 Description of goods TDED 7002: Plain language description of the nature of a goods item sufficient to identify it for customs, statistical or transport purposes an..512 (Min = 1, Max = unbounded)</p>	
<p>10-1 No. and kind of packages TDED 7224: Number of packages per goods item packaged in such a way that they cannot be divided without first undoing the package n..8 (Min=1, Max= unbounded)</p>		<p>14 Quantity TDED 7224: Number of packages per goods items packaged in such a way that they cannot be divided without first undoing the packing. n..8 (Min = 1, Max = unbounded)</p>
<p>11 Gross weight TDED 6292: Weight (mass) of goods including packaging but excluding the carrier's equipment. n..14 (Min=1, Max= unbounded)</p>		

Source: UNESCAP "Data Harmonization and Modelling Guide for Single Window Environment (ST/ESCAP/2619), Annex IV-2: Thai Data Harmonization Case," United Nations, 2012.
<http://unnex.unescap.org/tools/dhmg-annex4-2.pdf>

Single submission of individual data elements

Incremental submission of data:

- Trade and transport actors submit data to CBRAs at different points in time in the course of a transaction.
- A Single Window best practice is to require submission of only the incremental data to reflect a change or progression in the transaction.
- A Single Window should avoid re-submission of data to the extent that such data that was already submitted
- The ability to link-up individual submissions of data by a trader is part of the “intelligence” of a Single Window Environment.

CBRA =
Cross Border Regulatory Agency

Source: “WCO Compendium: How to Build a Single Window Environment. Volume 1: The Executive Guide” WCO, 2011. Op cit.

Single Submission Portal Project

- Definition of a Single Submission Portal:

*A **technical solution** that allows traders to **submit all** of the information related to a **specific activity** in a **single electronic platform**. This platform then redistributes the information to all participants within that portal. A Single Submission Portal differs from a Single Window in that it may or may not handle **regulatory procedures** and it may or **may not be the only portal** within the market.*

Source: "Technical Note on Terminology for Single Window and other electronic platforms," United Nations 2017.

Types & Focus

- eCommerce Platforms in UN/CEFACT vocabulary would be considered a Single Submission Portal
- Other potential types:
 - Port Community Systems
 - Cargo Community Systems
 - Logistics or Customs Management Systems
 - Data Pipelines
 - Interorganizational Operating Information Systems
- Focus on MSMEs – Micro and Small-Medium Enterprises

Potential Advantages

- Can be focused on specific economic actors
- Fewer use cases, can be more targeted
- Can be developed in a more agile, phased approach
- Attractive to MSMEs without export/import capacity

Potential Disadvantages

- Data reliability concerns
- Interoperability concerns
- Exclusion concerns
- Less incentive to address specialized markets
- Less incentive to address more regulated markets

Single Submission Portal Project

- Just started! Launching today.
- Looking for experts in:
 - MSME professional international trade services
 - E-Commerce Platforms
 - Port Community Systems
 - Cargo Community Systems
 - Data Pipelines
 - Interorganizational Operating Information Systems
- More information at:
 - <https://uncefact.unece.org/display/uncefactpublic/Single+Submission+Portal>

More information on UN/CEFACT SW work

- UN/CEFACT Recommendation 33
 - Single Window Recommendation
 - http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec33/rec33_trd352e.pdf
- UN/CEFACT Recommendation 34
 - Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade
 - http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE-TRADE-400E_Rec34.pdf
- UN/CEFACT Recommendation 35
 - Establishing a legal framework for international trade Single Window
 - http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE-TRADE-401E_Rec35.pdf
- UN/CEFACT Recommendation 36
 - Single Window Interoperability
 - http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/2017_Plenary/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2017_6E_Rec36-SWI.pdf
- Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide
 - <http://tfig.unece.org/contents/itinerary-02-start.html>
- Technical Note on terminology for Single Windows and Other Electronic Platforms
 - http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/2017_Plenary/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2017_10E_TechnicalNoteSW.pdf

Thank you!

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