TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

FACT SHEET

Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce & Consumer Affairs

What is the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement?

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) WTO's Bali Agreement signed under Ministerial Conference in 2013. Agreement aims to simplify and increase customs procedures by reducing costs and expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, with a goal of enhancing trade and generating substantial economic and welfare gains for all participating countries.

Objectives

The three main objectives of the Trade Facilitation Agreement are to:

- 1) Expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit
- 2) Improve cooperation between customs and between customs and other authorities
- 3) Enhance technical assistance and build capacity for the implementation of the TFA

Implementation Period

The WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation entered into force on 22 February, 2017 and was ratified by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis on 17 June, 2016. The National Trade Facilitation Committee has since been implemented to monitor the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.



Information is published online on import and export procedures and contact points for enquiries, as to allow traders to have all of the necessary information required for trading.

How does the TFA make trade easier for St. Kitts & Nevis?

- Rapid releases of products even before customs duties are calculated. This will expedite the shipment and clearance of prioritized goods.
- The provision of electronic copies of different trade-related documents and the option of making e-payments to make trade easier.
- The TFA will create a structured format on how fees and penalties are levied on traders.
- Traders are afforded the right to comment on proposed rules associated with the movement of goods and be provided with a right to appeal customs administrative decisions.
- Harmonized rules and procedures that allows predictability for traders. The implementation of a single window will make the clearance process much more effective and efficient.
- The TFA contains a provision that ensures that countries receive assistance in the full implementation of the Agreement.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

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