WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TFAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

# Belize

**Ratified Agreement:** Yes

**Ratification Date:** 2015-09-02

| Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C) | | | Due date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Notified all category ABC designations | | | by 22 February 2017 | Yes |
| A - 34.0% | B - 10.9% | C - 55.0% | **Not yet notified** - 0.0% | |
| Notified indicative dates in Category B | | | by 22 February 2017 | Yes |
| Notified definitive dates in Category B | | | by 22 February 2018 | Yes |
| Notified indicative dates in Category C | | | by 22 February 2017 | Yes |
| Notified definitive dates in Category C | | | by 22 August 2019 | Yes |
| Notified Technical Assistance requirements | | | by 22 February 2017 | Yes |
| Notified arrangements on the provision of technical assistance support | | | by 22 February 2018 | Yes |
| Notified progress in the provision of technical assistance support | | | by 22 August 2019 | Yes |

| Transparency notifications | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Notified Art. 1.4 | Category C | Definitive implementation date 31 December 2023 | Yes |
| Notified Art. 10.4.3 | Category C | Definitive implementation date 31 December 2026 | No |
| Notified Art. 10.6.2 | Category A | Definitive implementation date 22 February 2017 | Yes |
| Notified Art. 12.2 | Category A | Definitive implementation date 22 February 2017 | Yes |

## Information on Assistance and Capacity Building

| | |
|---|---|
| Notified Art. 22.3 | Yes |

**Legend:** Yes Notification presented | No Notification due | No Notification not yet due

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | Publication | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 1.2 | Information available through internet | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 1.3 | Enquiry points | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 1.4 | Notification | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 2.1 | Comments and information before entry into force | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 2.2 | Consultations | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 3 | Advance rulings | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 4 | Procedures for appeal or review | C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 5.1 | Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections | C | by 22 February 2019 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 5.2 | Detention | C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2030 |
| 5.3 | Test procedures | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 6.1 | General disciplines on fees and charges | B C»B | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 6.2 | Specific disciplines on fees and charges | C B»C E | by 22 February 2020 | by 22 August 2021 |
| 6.3 | Penalty Disciplines | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2024 |

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.1 | Pre-arrival processing | C E | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2026 |
| 7.2 | Electronic payment | C B»C E | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2026 |
| 7.3 | Separation of release | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 7.4 | Risk management | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 7.5 | Post-clearance audit | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 7.6 | Average release times | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 7.7 | Authorized operators | B E | by 22 February 2020 | by 30 June 2024 |
| 7.8 | Expedited shipments | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 7.9 | Perishable goods | C | by 22 February 2021 | by 31 December 2030 |
| 8 | Border Agency Cooperation | Ap Bp Cp B»C E | from 22 February 2017 to 22 February 2019 | from 22 February 2017 to December 2030 |
| 9 | Movement of goods | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 10.1 | Formalities | B B»C E | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 10.2 | Acceptance of copies | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 10.3 | Use of international standards | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10.4 | Single window | C E | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2026 |
| 10.5 | Preshipment inspection | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 10.6 | Use of customs brokers | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 10.7 | Common border procedures | C B»C E | by 22 February 2019 | by 22 August 2021 |
| 10.8 | Rejected Goods | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 10.9 | Temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 11 | Transit | Ap Cp | from 22 February 2017 to 22 February 2022 | from 22 February 2017 to December 2024 |
| 12 | Customs cooperation | A | | by 22 February 2017 |

**Legend**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | Notified in Cat. A | Ap | Partially notified in A | | |
| B | Notified in Cat. B | Bp | Partially notified in B | C»B | Shift from C to B |
| C | Notified in Cat. C | Cp | Partially notified in C | B»C | Shift from B to C |
| N | Not yet notified | E | Extension of time requested | | |

## Notifications and other documents

| Symbol | Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/1/Add.3 | 2026-09-15 | Extension of implementation dates |

| Symbol | Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| G/TFA/W/155/Rev.2 | 2026-07-29 | Second Review of the TFA - Communication from Belize, Canada and the UK - Article 23.1 - Revision 2 |
| G/TFA/W/155/Rev.1 | 2026-06-11 | Second Review of the TFA - Communication from Belize, Canada and the UK - Article 23.1 - Revision 1 |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/3/Rev.2 | 2025-10-17 | Article 22.3 - Revision 2 |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/2/Rev.3 | 2025-10-17 | Articles 1.4, 10.6.2, 12.2.2 - Revision 3 |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/2/Rev.2 | 2025-08-19 | Articles 1.4, 10.6.2, 12.2.2 - Revision 2 |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/2/Rev.1 | 2023-09-21 | Articles 1.4, 10.6.2, 12.2.2 - Revision |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/3/Rev.1 | 2023-09-21 | Article 22.3 - Revision |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/4/Corr.1 | 2023-03-17 | Donor arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance - Corrigendum - In English only |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/4 | 2023-03-10 | Donor arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/1/Add.2 | 2021-06-22 | Categories B and C notification - Shifting of categories - Extension of time request |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/1/Add.1/Corr.1 | 2019-09-19 | Categories A, B and C notification - Addendum - Corrigendum (in English only) |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/1/Add.1 | 2019-08-22 | Categories A, B and C notification - Addendum |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/3 | 2019-04-03 | Article 22.3 |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/1 | 2018-02-20 | Categories B and C notification |
| G/TFA/N/BLZ/2 | 2018-02-20 | Articles 1.4, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 |
| WT/PCTF/N/BLZ/1 | 2015-09-04 | Category A notification |

# Technical Assistance detailled information

## 1.1 Publication

C

**1.1.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j)**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023

## Assistance required for implementation

1. External Financial assistance to implement electronic version of Belize's Customs tariffs and nomenclature and the electronic Customs Procedure Manual.
2. Development of systems to safeguard and protect the authenticity of documents that are uploaded to avoid unauthorized use and manipulation.
3. Diagnostic study on the relevance of the import licensing regime by product categories, so as to provide the scope for a modern policy/legal framework. Legal aid is required to proceed.
4. Develop a trade portal requiring a functioning website for the Directorate General for Foreign Trade.
5. Technical assistance to assess current infrastructure and recommendations for the development and implementation of an electronic trade management information system. Assistance should be inclusive of equipment and requisite training at all levels.
6. External financial and technical assistance for a comprehensive information system for BAHA which will allow for electronic transactions and information sharing.
7. External financial and technical assistance for the review and drafting of Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations and bills.
8. Technical assistance to ensure that the policy for the provision of trade and trade related information is in line with Government policies and regulations.
9. Technical assistance needed to design a communications framework that meets the needs of BAHA and its stakeholders.
10. Training and IT development/advancement.
11. Technical and financial assistance to develop and implement a wide-area network for BAHA.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Infrastructure and equipment, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank

## Progress reported

Trade-related information are accessible to traders on various national websites Belize, however, has not been able to secure donor assistances in the following areas:
• To develop a trade portal within the website for the Directorate General for Foreign Trade.
• In securing technical and financial assistance to develop and implement a wide-area network for BAHA.
In addition, the Belize Customs and Excise Department require technical and financial assistance to improve its website and build capacity in website design to support greater publication of trade information.

C

**1.2.1 (a), (b), (c)**
**1.2.2**
**1.2.3**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Legal aid required to:
- Develop policy (guided by international standards) and guidelines.
- Revise/Amend or Repeal the existing laws to take into considerations publication provisions as prescribed under the AILP.
2. Training on NTBs/WTO AILP.
3. Technical assistance and financial support in area of IT for safeguarding and protecting the authenticity of documents that are uploaded to avoid unauthorized use and manipulation.

Note: TACB identified in Art. 1.1 also applicable here:

1. External Financial assistance to implement electronic version of Belize's Customs tariffs and nomenclature and the electronic Customs Procedure Manual.
2. Development of systems to safeguard and protect the authenticity of documents that are uploaded to avoid unauthorized use and manipulation.
3. Diagnostic study on the relevance of the import licensing regime by product categories, so as to provide the scope for a modern policy/legal framework. Legal aid is required to proceed.
4. Develop a trade portal requiring a functioning website for the Directorate General for Foreign Trade.
5. Technical assistance to assess current infrastructure and recommendations for the development and implementation of an electronic trade management information system. Assistance should be inclusive of equipment and requisite training at all levels.
6. External financial and technical assistance for a comprehensive information system for BAHA which will allow for electronic transactions and information sharing.
7. External financial and technical assistance for the review and drafting of Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations and bills.
8. Technical assistance to ensure that the policy for the provision of trade and trade related information is in line with Government policies and regulations.
9. Technical assistance needed to design a communications framework that meets the needs of BAHA and its stakeholders.
10. Training and IT development/advancement.
11. Technical and financial assistance to develop and implement a wide-area network for BAHA.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Infrastructure and equipment, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank

## Progress reported

Trade-related information are accessible to traders on various national websites Belize, however, has not been able to secure donor assistances in the following areas:
• To develop a trade portal within the website for the Directorate General for Foreign Trade.
• In securing technical and financial assistance to develop and implement a wide-area network for BAHA.
In addition, the Belize Customs and Excise Department require technical and financial assistance to improve its website and build capacity in website design to support greater publication of trade information.

1.3.1
1.3.2
1.3.3
1.3.4

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Develop within the Directorate General for Foreign Trade a Trade Portal for the amalgamation of enquiries and responses.
2. Legally establish Trade information enquiry point designated as the Central authority within the Government.
3. Legal drafter to amend/revise the existing legislation to identify the Supplies Control Unit as the official contact point with functions and responsibilities clearly defined in all matters relevant to import licensing.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework*

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank

## Progress reported

Trade-related information are accessible to traders on various national websites Belize, however, has not been able to secure donor assistances in the following areas:
• To develop a trade portal within the website for the Directorate General for Foreign Trade.
• In securing technical and financial assistance to develop and implement a wide-area network for BAHA.
In addition, the Belize Customs and Excise Department require technical and financial assistance to improve its website and build capacity in website design to support greater publication of trade information.

C

1.4 (a), (b), (c)

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023

## Assistance required for implementation

Training on WTO notification.

**Tags:** *Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank

## Progress reported

Trade-related information are accessible to traders on various national websites Belize, however, has not been able to secure donor assistances in the following areas:
• To develop a trade portal within the website for the Directorate General for Foreign Trade.
• In securing technical and financial assistance to develop and implement a wide-area network for BAHA.
In addition, the Belize Customs and Excise Department require technical and financial assistance to improve its website and build capacity in website design to support greater publication of trade information.

## 2.1 Comments and information before entry into force

C

**2.1.1** **Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**2.1.2** **Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023

**2.1.3**

### Assistance required for implementation

1. Provide more links through other trade related websites where all traders can have access to proposed changes to laws and regulations.
2. Legal aid/advice required to:
- Revise/Amend or Repeal the existing laws to take into considerations publication of procedures/administration etc. as prescribed under the AILP.
- To proceed with compliance to the AILP.
3. Training on NTBs/WTO AILP.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Institutional procedures, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

### Progress reported

Currently, the features of the WTO SPS and TBT eping platform that allows for private sector or other stakeholders to comment on draft regulations under the SPS and TBT are limited accessed in Belize.

Belize appreciates any additional support from other development partners/WTO for national training on the use of the WTO SPS and TBT eping platform to promote and accommodate other stakeholders including the private sector access to essential updates on product requirements in foreign markets.

2.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Technical Assistance to develop a Consultation policy; specific areas should include developing skills in regulatory impact assessment.
2. Technical Consultancy to develop the strategy/ policy for consultations and designate unit for implementation.
3. Legal Counsel to determine a standardized approach to consultations.

**Tags:** *Legislative and regulatory framework, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Institutional procedures*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

To date no development partner has been identified.

Assistance is required to employ effective strategies to engage stakeholder in areas without access to internet and mobile communication.

**3.1**
**3.2 (a), (b)**
**3.3**
**3.4**
**3.5**
**3.6 (a), (b), (c)**
**3.7**
**3.8**
**3.9 (a) (i), (ii), (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (c), (d)**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Draftsperson needed with expertise in British common law to establish binding rulings.
2. Training in binding rulings.
3. 'Train the trainer' program.

**Tags:** *Legislative and regulatory framework, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** International Monetary Fund

## Progress reported

The Belize Customs and Excise Department received technical assistance from CARTAC in the form of a workshop in 2020 that assisted in the initial stages of developing an adequate advance rulings system. It built awareness and pointed to aspects for Belize to consider when designing an advance ruling system.

The Customs and Excise Department currently require additional technical support and capacity building to: (i) further develop an advance ruling system for classification, and (ii) Train the trainer on classification, valuation and origin of goods.

**4.1 (a), (b)**
**4.2**
**4.3**
**4.4 (a), (b), paragraph**
**4.5**
**4.6**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Consultancy to determine the legal framework for Appeal or Review process.
2. Legal Counsel to determine the framework for the institutionalization of the review and appeals process.
3. Legal assistance is necessary to develop structure of appeals tribunal.
4. Technical Assistance/Guidance to determine the human resource needs.
5. Financial and technical resources for equipment and software and expertise in developing an efficient electronic filing system.
6. Assistance with developing an appeal policy and relevant procedures.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Infrastructure and equipment, Institutional procedures, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Currently Belize requires development partner assistance in: (i) Designing and creating policy on appeals in accordance with the existing regulation and (ii) Designing/creating standard operating procedure that compliments the Policy.

C

5.1 (a), (b), (c), (d)

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2019

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Legal advice due to:
-Lack of legal provision for import control purposes to be shared among border agencies.
-Lack of established procedures to notify border authorities with respect to enhancing controls and inspections.
-Lack of established procedures to ensure publication of a notice of termination of an import alert in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner.
2. Technical Assistance and financial support needed to set up an alert system of notification for BAHA.
3. A Systems Administrator has been hired in the interim to assist with updating BAHA's website however we lack an information and alert system to notify other agencies and service users regarding enhanced controls and inspections.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Institutional procedures, Awareness-raising*

**Donor Agencies:** United States Department of Agriculture, International Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health

## Progress reported

Belize received assistance in the implementation of a nonintrusive system for inspection at the airport, including k9 and x-ray machines. Additional K9 units at the airport and other border points are needed. Also, assistance with risk-based inspection, training and support (financial support for appropriate inspection facilities) at all points of entry are required.

C

5.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2030

## Assistance required for implementation

There is need for quarantine holding facilities at all major points of entry inclusive of treatment facilities and refrigeration units.

**Tags:** *Infrastructure and equipment*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

To date no development partner has been identified

C

5.3.1
5.3.2
5.3.3

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1.Technical assistance in acquisition of equipment for the National Forensic Laboratory which performs testing for Customs.
2. All BAHA diagnostic units require more human and material resources to improve testing capacity and to meet ISO 17025 accreditation.
3. Capacity Building of officers.

**Tags:** *Infrastructure and equipment, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

To date no development partner has been identified.

C

6.2 (i), (ii)

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
22 August 2021

## Assistance required for implementation

-Advance Cargo Information System - Infrastructure support
-Valuation - Technical guidance in valuation and advance rulings
- Enforcement - Training and equipment

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment, Human resources and training*

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

C

6.3.1
6.3.2
6.3.3
6.3.4 (a), (b)
6.3.5
6.3.6
6.3.7

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1. There is a need for formal training.

**Tags:** *Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Belize would appreciate any opportunity from among the development partners for capacity development and training activities on managing the disciplines on penalties be available to Customs Officials.

C

7.1.1
7.1.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2026

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Upgrade agencies to full electronic systems for connectivity to ASYCUDA WORLD. Revision of current systems, updating existing systems and creation of new systems (Single-window approach).
2. BAHA need financial and technical assistance to implement an information system for the entire organisation. This would then address both import and export procedures and facilitate recall mechanism when necessary. Training of personnel required in this aspect.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Currently no development partner has been identified.

Belize requires assistance and support in upgrading and incorporating other agencies (including Shipping Agents, BAHA, the Port Authority, BELTRAIDE, Forest Department, Department of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, and Central Bank) to a full electronic system suitable to connect to the ASYCUDA World System. This process will entail a revision of the current systems, updating existing ones and creation of new systems (Single-window approach).
Belize appreciates any opportunity from development partners for the relevant officials to participate in capacity development and training activities on Pre-Arrival Processing.

C

7.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2026

## Assistance required for implementation

The Customs and Excise Department allows electronic payments; it is currently engaged in an effort to include other agencies which require additional assistance and support from donors in implementing.

Requires the following additional assistance and support not earlier anticipated:
1. Assistance and financial support for the development of a wide-area network for BAHA.
2. Assistance for the development of a legal framework that is supportive of electronic payments.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework*

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank

## Progress reported

Currently the Belize Customs and Excise Department utilizes an electronic payment system through the AYSCUDA World System purchased from UNCTAD with donor support from CDB. However, the Supplies Control Unit and other Border Agencies do not have in place such system. Belize would appreciate any assistance that would allow the accommodation of electronic payment through the ASYCUDA World system or another system for these agencies.

C

7.4.1
7.4.2
7.4.3
7.4.4

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Acquire a legal draftsman.
2. Acquire the necessary external technical assistance to develop a risk management strategy.
3. Acquire the necessary external technical assistance to establish operating procedures due to lack of standardized criteria.
4. Acquire the necessary external technical assistance in areas of risk management analysis in data gathering and criteria building.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Institutional procedures*

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank, World Customs Organization, International Monetary Fund

## Progress reported

Belize Customs and Excise Department developed internally, using WCO risk management compendium and RKC, a Risk Management framework, Policy, Strategy and Plan.
Under the Caribbean Development Bank Project: “Development of a Risk-based Sanitary and Phyo-sanitary Import and Export Control System for Belize” (GA74/BZE), the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) will be conducting a risk categorization of all products, establishments and eventually even Importers; and establish an electronic platform to facilitate import, export and transit, and conduct on-going training in risk-based inspection. The project has been delayed.

Belize will require additional technical support and capacity building in the following areas:
o Building and coding of risk criteria
o Data analysis and software analytical tool that can interface with ASYCUDA world for other border agencies.
o e-platform to interface BAHA with ASYCUDA world system.

7.5.1
7.5.2
7.5.3
7.5.4

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Provide specialized training to Post-Audit Unit. Secure specialized training from external sources. (WCO, EU and CCLEC).
2. Request technical assistance to develop and implement the necessary systems. Secure technical assistance from EU.
3. Restructuring of the Post-Audit Unit and acquiring the proper audit software and other analytical tools. Secure technical assistance for training, software and analytical tools funding.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Institutional procedures, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** International Monetary Fund, World Customs Organization

## Progress reported

Belize Customs and Excise Department received capacity building and technical support in post-clearance audit from CARTAC (2017-2020). Belize benefited from the WCO Mercator Programme. A Diagnostic Scoping Mission was conducted in October 2018 for areas of risk management and post clearance audit. A risk assessment and selectivity workshop and post clearance audit mission were scheduled for March 2020 but was disrupted by the COVID19 pandemic. Belize Customs Excise Department have plans to reengage WCO to resume initiative.
- Belize Customs and Excise Department is currently modelling the CARTAC Post-Clearance Audit Procedure Manual.
- Draft Customs Control and Management Bill and Regulations (Harmonized Customs Bill) contains legal provisions for post-clearance audit. The Bill and Regulations are pending domestication.
Belize would appreciate additional Technical support and financial assistance to develop the Post clearance Audit (PCA) unit in the following areas:
o Analytical tool/software
o Technical support to develop a plan for the specialization of the PCA unit
o Specialized training - Auditing and accounting principles

C

7.6.1
7.6.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Technical assistance to develop TRS policy and procedures.
2. Technical assistance for training in the use of TRS software.
3. Assistance in conducting a study on the aspects that contribute to average release times for commodities regulated by BAHA.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank

## Progress reported

The Caribbean Development Bank is currently providing funding to conduct a Time Release Study anticipated to take about 7-10 months. The WCO assisting in this as well.
Further technical assistance will be required following the launch of a TRS for additional training and to conduct subsequent TRSs.

C

**7.8.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h)**
**7.8.2 (a), (b), (c), (d)**
**7.8.3**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Capacity building to develop and administer single document processing for expedited shipment (based on 2014 Needs Assessment).
2. Funding for IT equipment for administering expedited shipments (based on 2014 Needs Assessment).
3. TA for the standardization of procedures in expedited shipment.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment, Institutional procedures*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

To date no development partner has been identified.

C

7.9.1 (a), (b)
7.9.2
7.9.3
7.9.4

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2021

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2030

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Technical and financial assistance required to ensure that proper inspection facilities are in place for agricultural and food product at each official point of entry. In addition, for trade in live animals appropriate holding and inspection facilities need to be in place (facilitate quarantine period and treatment where necessary prior to import and export and where applicable even for in-transit consignments).

**Tags:** *Infrastructure and equipment*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

To date no development partner has been identified.

8.2 (b), (c), (d), (e)

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2019

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2030

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Assistance to conduct feasibility study.
2. Technical assistance to learn best practices in countries that have introduced joint border controls and one-stop border post control.
3. Financial assistance for equipment and software.
4. Technical assistance for strengthening the human resources of border agencies.
5. Technical assistance and cooperation for training and awareness building.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Human resources and training, Awareness-raising*

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

No development partner has so far been identified in the following areas:
1. Assistance to conduct feasibility study on the establishment of a one stop border post. The study should include an analysis for the alignment of procedures and formalities using best practices and international standards.
2. Technical assistance to learn best practices in countries that have introduced joint border controls and one-stop border post control.
3. Financial assistance for facility, equipment and software.
4. Technical assistance for strengthening of human resource management of border agencies.
5. Technical assistance and cooperation for training and awareness building.

C

10.3.1
10.3.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023

## Assistance required for implementation

Financial support to participate in meetings of the International Standard Setting Bodies and the WTO/SPS Committee Meetings.

**Tags:** *Human resources and training*

**Donor Members:** European Union

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank

## Progress reported

Belize received support from the Caribbean Development Bank Standby Facility under GA72/BZE, to strengthen national quality infrastructure in Belize by building institutional technical capacity for improved Quality Management Systems in accordance with ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 17025.

Further assistance from development partners will be appreciated in the following areas:
- to develop more national standards, regulations and policies for food and agriculture and food safety; and
-to have relevant officials participate in meetings of the International Standard Setting Bodies and the WTO/SPS and TBT Committee Meetings.

The Belize Customs and Excise Department is currently:
- Implementing the HS2022 as per Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS Convention) which was approved on 4th January 2023 under Act No.1 of 2023. CARTAC provided an expert on tariff classification to guide CARICOM Customs Committee working group in 2021.
- Exploring donor/development assistance to ratify the RKC and Harmonized System. Although not a signatory to the RKC, Belize currently bases its Customs procedures that are related to automated clearance system (the ASYCUDA world) developed by UNCTAD on the RKC.
- Belize Customs is currently upgrading ASYCUDA World to its latest version and will include new automated customs procedures such as: pre-clearance and post clearance audit modules, valuation database module, offense management module, improved selectivity criteria module, foreign exchange control module, and duty exemption management module. The upgrading came from a support extended contract stemming from the initial implementation of ASYCUDA World in 2008 which was funded by CDB ; and
- Belize is currently using the WCO Risk Management Compendium for the development of a National Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Plan.
Belize would appreciate any opportunities from other development partners to assist with additional support and assistance in the following areas:
- Scoping mission to assess the legal and administrative readiness to ratify the RKC and the HS Convention;
- Capacity building within Customs and Excise Department and other relevant agencies on Risk Management and HS.

## 10.4 Single window

C

**10.4.1**
**10.4.2**
**10.4.3**
**10.4.4**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2026

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Technical Assistance and training for establishing a Single Window facility required.
2. Technical Assistance: equipment for the operation of the single window.
Capacity Building: Training for users (authorities, customs brokers, etc.) of the single window.
3. Public awareness campaign on the need and benefits of the single window.
4. A regional approach is being taken towards a regional single window; which will be compatible with international standard; Belize taking a national approach in being fully compliant. (Key issue: compatibility).

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Infrastructure and equipment, Institutional procedures, Human resources and training, Awareness-raising*

**Donor Agencies:** Caribbean Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank

## Progress reported

The Caribbean Development Bank is providing funding to conduct a feasibility study for an Electronic Single Window (ESW) to review the status of trade facilitation in Customs procedures, other regulatory stakeholders' procedures, and review the legal and regulatory framework governing trade facilitation and clearance of goods and make recommendations for the implementation for an ESW.
Belize has secured funding through a loan from the IDB to conduct the first phase of implementation of a Foreign Trade Single Window. This component will finance: i) Gap analysis of the current platform, and identification of barriers from a triple perspective: technology, usability, and integrating with existing systems and business process re-engineering to ensure that trade processes are optimized and aligned with international best practices, ii) deployment of a Licenses, Certificates, and Permits (LCP) module that will serve as the single-entry point and management system for all import and export LCPs issued by participating agencies, which will include the generation of gender disaggregated reports. Project is delayed.
The IDB consultancy for the ESW will elaborate on recommendations for medium and long-term financial sustainability of the ESW, both for operational costs and capital investments in accordance with the technical work developed by the Caribbean Development Bank (Feasibility Study); and iii) enhancement of IT equipment to facilitate the migration to a paperless environment and use of the system. Belize will require further assistances.
Time frame of Project: 18 months to complete.
Belize will require additional support in the following areas:
i. Technical assistance and training for relevant officials in establishing and managing a Single Window facility;
ii. Equipment for the operational use of the Single Window
iii. Capacity building training for users of the Single Window
iv. Building awareness among the private sector entities
v. For the integration of other border agencies into the Single Window facility

C

**10.7.1**
**10.7.2 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2019

**Definitive date of implementation**
22 August 2021

## Assistance required for implementation

- Advance Cargo Information System - Infrastructure support
- Valuation - Technical guidance in valuation and advance rulings
- Enforcement - Training and equipment

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment, Human resources and training*

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

C

**10.9.1**
**10.9.2 (a), (b), (c)**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023

## Assistance required for implementation

1. Technical assistance to provide specialized training. Lack of trained officers in supervision and audit of manufacturing operations.

**Tags:** *Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Belize appreciates any opportunity from other development partners/WTO for the relevant officials to participate in specialized training in the supervision and audit of manufacturing operations.

**11.1 (a), (b)**
**11.2**
**11.3**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

Comprehensive study and review of other fees and charges. Technical assistance needed for comprehensive study and review.

**Tags:** *Diagnostic and Needs Assessment*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Articles 11.1 – 11.3:

No development partner has so far offered any assistance in the area of transit charges, regulations, and formalities.
Belize appreciates any opportunity from other developing partners to assist in providing technical assistance and capacity building to undertake periodic review of transit regulations and formalities to assess the impact of trade.

Articles 11.16 – 11.17:
To date no development partner has been identified in the area of cooperation and coordination.
Belize appreciates any opportunity from other developing partners to assist in providing technical assistance and capacity building to undertake periodic review of transit regulations and formalities to assess trade impact.

**11.16 (a), (b), (c)**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

Technical assistance to facilitate comprehensive review/study and draft a Legal text. Comprehensive review and analysis of viability and benefits of membership into SIECA (Include a clause to address cross border transit issues).

**Tags:** *Legislative and regulatory framework, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Articles 11.1 – 11.3:

No development partner has so far offered any assistance in the area of transit charges, regulations, and formalities.
Belize appreciates any opportunity from other developing partners to assist in providing technical assistance and capacity building to undertake periodic review of transit regulations and formalities to assess the impact of trade.

Articles 11.16 – 11.17:
To date no development partner has been identified in the area of cooperation and coordination.
Belize appreciates any opportunity from other developing partners to assist in providing technical assistance and capacity building to undertake periodic review of transit regulations and formalities to assess trade impact.

**11.17**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2024

## Assistance required for implementation

Technical assistance to facilitate comprehensive review/study and draft a Legal text. Comprehensive review and analysis of viability and benefits of membership into SIECA (Include a clause to address cross border transit issues).

**Tags:** *Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Legislative and regulatory framework*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Articles 11.1 – 11.3:

No development partner has so far offered any assistance in the area of transit charges, regulations, and formalities. Belize appreciates any opportunity from other developing partners to assist in providing technical assistance and capacity building to undertake periodic review of transit regulations and formalities to assess the impact of trade.

Articles 11.16 – 11.17:
To date no development partner has been identified in the area of cooperation and coordination.
Belize appreciates any opportunity from other developing partners to assist in providing technical assistance and capacity building to undertake periodic review of transit regulations and formalities to assess trade impact.

**Legend**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | Notified in Cat. C | Cp | Partially notified in C | E | Extension of time requested |
| | Donor arrangement notified | | Donor arrangement not yet notified | | |

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