WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TFAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

Costa Rica

Ratified Agreement: Yes

Ratification Date: 2017-05-01

Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C)			Due date	Status
Notified all category ABC designations			by 22 February 2017	Yes
A - 97.9%	B - 0.0%	C - 2.1%	**Not yet notified** - 0.0%	
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 A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2017		Yes
Notified Art. 10.4.3	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2017		Yes
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 date
1.1	Publication	A		by 22 February 2017
1.2	Information available through internet	A		by 22 February 2017
1.3	Enquiry points	A		by 22 February 2017
1.4	Notification	A		by 22 February 2017
2.1	Comments and information before entry into force	A		by 22 February 2017
2.2	Consultations	A		by 22 February 2017
3	Advance rulings	A		by 22 February 2017
4	Procedures for appeal or review	A		by 22 February 2017
5.1	Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	A		by 22 February 2017
5.2	Detention	A		by 22 February 2017
5.3	Test procedures	A		by 22 February 2017
6.1	General disciplines on fees and charges	A		by 22 February 2017
6.2	Specific disciplines on fees and charges	A		by 22 February 2017
6.3	Penalty Disciplines	A		by 22 February 2017

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

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
10.4	Single window	A		by 22 February 2017
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	A		by 22 February 2017
10.8	Rejected Goods	A		by 22 February 2017
10.9	Temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing	A		by 22 February 2017
11	Transit	A		by 22 February 2017
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/CRI/2/Rev.1	2026-03-09	Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2, 12.2.2 - Revision 1

Symbol	Date	Description
G/TFA/N/CRI/5	2023-11-13	Article 22.3
G/TFA/N/CRI/4	2023-09-12	Extension of implementation dates
G/TFA/N/CRI/3	2022-10-17	Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance
G/TFA/W/38/Rev.3	2021-07-30	Revisiting the need for global action to eliminate consularization requirements - Revision 3
G/TFA/W/38/Rev.2	2021-07-05	Revisiting the need for global action to eliminate consularization requirements - Revision 2
G/TFA/W/38/Rev.1	2021-06-07	Revisiting the need for global action to eliminate consularization requirements - Revision
G/TFA/W/22	2020-03-18	Informe sobre el primer encuentro latinoamericano de los comités nacionales de facilitación del comercio
G/TFA/N/CRI/1/Add.1/Corr.1	2019-09-16	Category C notification - Addendum - Corrigendum
G/TFA/N/CRI/1/Add.1	2019-08-27	Category C notification - Addendum
G/TFA/N/CRI/2	2018-03-23	Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 notification
G/TFA/N/CRI/1	2017-11-07	Cat. C notification
WT/PCTF/N/CRI/1	2014-05-19	Category A notification

Experience Sharing

National Trade Facilitation Committee

Date	Title
12 February 2019 - 13 February 2019	National Trade Facilitation Committee (in Spanish)
11 February 2020	Informe sobre el primer encuentro latinoamericano de los comités nacionales de facilitación del comercio - Montevideo, Uruguay - Nov

Implementation experience

Date	Title
11 February 2020	Costa Rica statement (Ana Laura LIzano)

10.4 - Single window

Date	Title
16 April 2024 - 17 April 2024	La digitalización en la facilitación del comercio en Costa Rica - VUCE y Programa de Integración Fronteriza

7.7 - Authorized operators

Date	Title
12 March 2025 - 13 March 2025	Programa Operador Económico Autorizado

Technical Assistance detailled information

10.1 Formalities

Cp

10.1.1 (a), (b), (c), (d)

Indicative date of implementation
30 June 2019

Definitive date of implementation
30 January 2023

Assistance required for implementation

Conduct an internal review of the formalities and documentation requirements for drawing up and implementing an improvement plan in conformity with the obligations set forth in the Article.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
• Coordination by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the National Council for Trade Facilitation with the support of the World Bank Group.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

With regard to Article 10.1.1, support was requested to conduct an internal review of the formalities and documentation requirements for drawing up and implementing an improvement plan in conformity with the obligations set forth in the Article.

Following the request, between September 2018 and February 2019, a review of existing procedures at Costa Rica's land border posts, ports and airports was conducted with World Bank support. The aim was to review formalities and documentation requirements, while identifying opportunities for improvement relating to customs procedures for the import, export and transit of goods.

As a result, the World Bank issued a report entitled "Review of formalities and documentation requirements and identification of opportunities for improvement relating to import, export and transit procedures at the Peñas Blancas, Paso Canoas, Puerto Caldera, Puerto Limón and Juan Santamaría International Airport (Costa Rica) border posts (Articles 10.1 and 10.2 of the TFA)", which summarizes the findings and recommendations emerging from the study.

The results of this work were also included and elaborated upon in a document entitled "Priority Trade Facilitation Agenda", which was declared of public and national interest through Executive Decree No. 42065-MP-COMEX of 17 October 2019.

In line with the recommendations made in this report and contained in the "Priority Agenda", Costa Rica has successfully

made a number of improvements to its foreign trade procedures. Such improvements include the following:

• Issuance of guidelines on eliminating requests for copies or original versions of documents when customs declarations fall in the amber traffic light category.

• Establishment of a higher authority, the "Border Coordinator", to manage land border control posts.

• Increase in the number of border control officials at the Peñas Blancas (border with Nicaragua) and Paso Canoas (border with Panama) land border posts.

• Creation of local trade facilitation committees in which both the public and private sectors can participate.

• Training on coordinated border management, public service ethics and the single window for foreign trade.

• Development of a website containing all customs and foreign trade regulations, called the Foreign Trade Portal.

• Analysis of the risk management system and adoption of a new system called the National Risk Management System (SINIGER, currently under development).

• Approval of amendments to the General Customs Law , which included recommendations made by COMEX on the back of support provided by the World Bank, specifically regarding issues such as authorized economic operators, advance rulings, the "reasonable doubt" procedure and the "self determined rectification" procedure.

In light of the above, Costa Rica wishes to express its full satisfaction with the technical assistance and support provided by the World Bank Group following the request submitted to this Organization. The support has enabled the country to develop the capacities needed to move forward in implementing the provisions of Articles 10.1.1 and 10.2.2 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Since the study was concluded, the World Bank has also provided Costa Rica with technical assistance for activities relating to other provisions of the Agreement, such as a study on clearance times at the container terminal of Moín and a pilot scheme for the implementation of risk-based sampling for products of phytosanitary interest.

Current actions:

Recently, within the framework of actions to implement Category C provisions, the Ministry of Foreign Trade conducted a new study to identify which physical documents – in the form of original versions or copies - are requested during the various customs and foreign trade procedures at Costa Rica's land border posts.

This analysis has resulted in a set of recommendations that control agencies could implement to reduce requests for printed copies and documents, the aim being to streamline and digitalize import, export and transit procedures for goods.

The National Trade Facilitation Council (CONAFAC) will promote the undertaking of a similar study at the country's main ports and airports.

Lastly, once the Border Integration Programme has been fully implemented, both SINIGER and the Management Control System will be operational. These systems will act as technological tools to support the control of goods and trade in goods, and will help the country to comply with the provisions notified under Category C.

10.2.2

Indicative date of implementation
30 June 2019

Definitive date of implementation
30 January 2023

Assistance required for implementation

• Draw up a list of the documents required by the different governmental agencies for the exportation, importation, and transit of goods;

• Design and implement a system for the exchange of information between governmental agencies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
• Coordination by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the National Council for Trade Facilitation with the support of the World Bank Group.

Tags: *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Institutional procedures*

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

For Article 10.2.2, support was requested to:

• Draw up a list of the documents required by the different governmental agencies for the exportation, importation and transit of goods.

• Design and implement a system for the exchange of information between governmental agencies.

Following the request, between September 2018 and February 2019, a review of existing procedures at Costa Rica's land border posts, ports and airports was conducted with World Bank support. The aim was to review formalities and documentation requirements, while identifying opportunities for improvement relating to customs procedures for the import, export and transit of goods.

As a result, the World Bank issued a report entitled "Review of formalities and documentation requirements and identification of opportunities for improvement relating to import, export and transit procedures at the Peñas Blancas, Paso Canoas, Puerto Caldera, Puerto Limón and Juan Santamaría International Airport (Costa Rica) border posts (Articles 10.1 and 10.2 of the TFA)", which summarizes the findings and recommendations emerging from the study.

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Lastly, once the Border Integration Programme has been fully implemented, both SINIGER and the Management Control System will be operational. These systems will act as technological tools to support the control of goods and trade in goods, and will help the country to comply with the provisions notified under Category C.

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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