



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Ratified Agreement: **Yes**

Ratification Date: **2015-09-29**

Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C)

	Due date	Status
Notified all category ABC designations	by 22 February 2018	Yes
<p>A - 21.0% B - 37.0% C - 42.0%</p> <p>Not yet notified - 0.0%</p>		
Notified indicative dates in Category B	by 22 February 2018	Yes
Notified definitive dates in Category B	Extension agreed until 21 February 2021	Yes
Notified indicative dates in Category C	by 22 February 2021	Yes
Notified definitive dates in Category C	by 22 August 2022	Yes
Notified Technical Assistance requirements	by 22 February 2019	Yes
Notified arrangements on the provision of technical assistance support	by 22 February 2021	Yes
Notified progress in the provision of technical assistance support	by 22 August 2022	Yes

Transparency notifications

Notified Art. 1.4	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2018	Yes
Notified Art. 10.4.3	Category B	Definitive implementation date 31 December 2024	Yes
Notified Art. 10.6.2	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2018	Yes
Notified Art. 12.2	Category C	Definitive implementation date 31 December 2024	No

Information on Assistance and Capacity Building

Notified Art. 22.3	Yes
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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 2018
1.2	Information available through internet	A		by 22 February 2018
1.3	Enquiry points	A		by 22 February 2018
1.4	Notification	A		by 22 February 2018
2.1	Comments and information before entry into force	B	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2020
2.2	Consultations	B	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2020
3	Advance rulings	B C»B	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2022
4	Procedures for appeal or review	A		by 22 February 2018
5.1	Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	A		by 22 February 2018
5.2	Detention	A		by 22 February 2018
5.3	Test procedures	B C»B	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
6.1	General disciplines on fees and charges	B	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2020
6.2	Specific disciplines on fees and charges	A		by 22 February 2018
6.3	Penalty Disciplines	B	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2020
7.1	Pre-arrival processing	A		by 22 February 2018
7.2	Electronic payment	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
7.3	Separation of release	B	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2020
7.4	Risk management	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
7.5	Post-clearance audit	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
7.6	Average release times	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
7.7	Authorized operators	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
7.8	Expedited shipments	B C»B	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
7.9	Perishable goods	B	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2020
8	Border Agency Cooperation	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
9	Movement of goods	A		by 22 February 2018
10.1	Formalities	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
10.2	Acceptance of copies	C B»C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
10.3	Use of international standards	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
10.4	Single window	B C»B	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
10.5	Preshipment inspection	A		by 22 February 2018
10.6	Use of customs brokers	A		by 22 February 2018
10.7	Common border procedures	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
10.8	Rejected Goods	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024
10.9	Temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing	A		by 22 February 2018
11	Transit	B C»B	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2022
12	Customs cooperation	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2024

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/LAO/3/Rev.1	2022-08-24	Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance
G/TFA/N/LAO/4/Rev.1	2022-08-24	Article 22.3 - Revision
G/TFA/N/LAO/1/Add.5	2022-08-22	Category C notification and shifting of categories
G/TFA/N/LAO/3	2021-03-19	Arrangements and Progress in the provision of technical assistance
G/TFA/N/LAO/4	2021-03-19	Article 22.3
G/TFA/N/LAO/1/Add.4	2020-08-05	Category B notification
G/TFA/N/LAO/1/Add.3	2020-02-13	Category B notification - Addendum 3 - Extension of time request to notify Cat. B definitive dates
G/TFA/N/LAO/1/Add.2	2019-09-24	Categories B and C notification - Addendum 2
G/TFA/N/LAO/1/Add.1	2019-09-16	Categories B and C notification - Addendum
G/TFA/N/LAO/2	2019-01-17	Articles 1.4, 10.4.3 and 10.6.2
G/TFA/N/LAO/1	2018-03-02	Categories A, B and C notification
WT/PCTF/N/LAO/1	2015-09-17	Category A notification

Experience Sharing

Capacity Building support - Implementation experience

Date	Title
15 October 2019 - 16 October 2019	Trade Facilitation in Lao: key achievements and challenges

11 - Transit

Date

Title

10 July 2024 - 11 July 2024

ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) - Implementation by Lao Customs



7.2

Indicative date of implementation

31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation

31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

The international TA and national expert needed to help the Department of Agriculture to draft technical regulations, guidelines and SOPs for setting up a facility for electronic payment of inspection fees, test analysis fees, phyto-certificate fees and other charges at its central and provincial offices.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Among border agencies, Customs is the only department with provision for electronic payment of duties, taxes and inspection or quality test fees for imports and exports. Non-customs agencies (NCAs) are unable to allow it due to resource constraints in providing IT infrastructure to their field formations. There is no support available from any donor in this regard.

Therefore, the Lao PDR will require assistance from development partners/WTO on –

- (i) Provision of ICT infrastructure in non-Customs agencies for enabling them to accept electronic payments of fees and processing charges relating to import, export and transit
 - (ii) Requisite changes in regulation & procedures, and
 - (iii) Capacity building of these agencies.
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Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Among border agencies, Customs is the only department with provision for electronic payment of duties, taxes and inspection or quality test fees for imports and exports through Smart Tax Card. In addition, the Lao National Single Window (LNSW) also provides for electronic payment of Customs duties and taxes, as well as of fees payable to participating agencies for issuing licenses, permits and certificates. LNSW is currently available only at a few border crossings and is limited to just a handful of participating agencies, like DIMEX and Department of Transport. The progress of LNSW roll out is however slow in absence of lack of IT infrastructure in concerned agencies.

Non-customs agencies (NCAs) are unable to allow it due to resource constraints in providing IT infrastructure to their field formations. There is no support available from any donor in this regard.

Therefore, the Lao PDR will require assistance from development partners/WTO on:

- (a) Provision of ICT infrastructure in non-Customs agencies for enabling them to accept electronic payments of fees and processing charges relating to import, export and transit.
- (b) Requisite changes in regulation & procedures, and
- (c) Capacity building of these agencies.



7.4.1
7.4.2
7.4.3
7.4.4

Indicative date of implementation

31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation

31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

International TA for Customs, Food & Drugs and plant quarantine departments to help in building an integrated risk management framework in collaboration with other border agencies and in developing composite risk profiles using their inputs in the customs selectivity module. The TA will also help those agencies in establishing their respective risk management units and organizing training workshops for their capacity building.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Lao Customs Department is applying risk management principles in examination of goods at the border posts using the selectivity module of ASYCUDA, its automated processing system. The skill level of officers engaged in risk management functions needs to be enhanced for an effective application of risk management principles and reducing the percentage of border examinations. Further, development of an Integrated Risk Management Framework involving Customs and other border agencies is planned to undertake joint examination and clearance using the Customs' selectivity module.

The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) aims to provide following support:

1. To enhance the maturity level of the LCD's existing risk management functions
2. To develop an integrated risk management framework (IRMF) involving Customs and other border agencies, like Food & Drugs Department and Plant & Quarantine departments for improved border functions
3. Preparation of Operation Manuals and guidelines for implementing risk management in border agencies
4. Capacity building of above border agencies in application of risk management principles

However, due to fund constraints, support of the WB project is limited, and hence Lao PDR will require following assistance from the development partners/WTO:

1. Technical support on risk analysis and development of risk profiles, particularly in the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Livestock & Fisheries, towards effective functioning of the risk management framework
2. Upgradation of the Risk Management System in Lao Customs following international best practices
3. Capacity building of Customs & other border agencies for above functions beyond 2020

Donor Agencies: World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Progress reported

Lao Customs Department is applying risk management principles in examination of goods at the border posts using the selectivity module of ASYCUDA, its automated processing system. The skill level of officers engaged in risk management functions needs to be enhanced for an effective application of risk management principles and reducing the percentage of border examinations. Further, development of an Integrated Risk Management Framework involving Customs and other border agencies is planned to undertake joint examination and clearance using the Customs' selectivity module. With the support of the WB's LCT project, border agencies already signed an MOU to implement the joined risk management. However, all border agencies need to work together to come up with the SOP for joined risk management. The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) aims to provide following support:

1. To enhance the maturity level of the LCD's existing risk management functions.
2. To develop an integrated risk management framework (IRMF) involving Customs and other border agencies, like Food & Drugs Department and Plant & Quarantine departments for improved border functions.
3. Preparation of Operation Manuals and guidelines for implementing risk management in border agencies
4. Capacity building of above border agencies in application of risk management principles.

In addition, Lao Customs Department is also helped by JICA in building its capacity for risk assessment, analysis and development of risk parameters for effective risk management.

However, due to fund constraints, support of the WB project is limited, and hence Lao PDR will require following assistance from the development partners/WTO:

- (a) Technical support on risk analysis and development of risk profiles, particularly in the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Livestock & Fisheries, towards effective functioning of the risk management framework.
- (b) Upgrade of the Risk Management System in Lao Customs following international best practices.
- (c) Capacity building of Customs & other border agencies for above functions.



7.5.1
7.5.2
7.5.3
7.5.4

Indicative date of implementation

31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation

31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

International TA for Customs, Food & Drugs Department (FDD), Department of Agriculture and the Department of Standardization & Metrology (DOSM) to help them insert suitable provisions in respective laws to allow drawing of samples for second test and consideration of the second test report as per the TFA provisions. It will also help them identify accredited laboratories in the region & elsewhere and build capacity of the government officials and members of trade to make use of this opportunity

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Lao Customs has been following Post-Clearance Audit since 2007. However, PCA functioning in Lao Customs is confined to an asset verification exercise, rather than a comprehensive scrutiny of trader's own accounts and commercial records. Hence, it needs qualitative upgradation, including capacity building of the staff for making them more effective. Other border agencies also need to evolve PCA mechanism to supplement their risk-based border inspections.

The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) aims to provide following support:

1. Strengthening the existing system of Post-Clearance Audit in Customs for enhancing compliance
2. Development of Operation Manual and guidelines for conducting PCA in Customs by using traders' own financial accounts and commercial records
3. Introduction of post clearance audit in other agencies, like Food & Drugs Department and plant & quarantine agencies by restructuring their post-marketing compliance system
4. Capacity building of various border agencies for an effective post-clearance audit

However, due to fund constraints, WB support is limited and hence, support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities beyond 2020:

- (a) Development of Operation Manuals and protocols in non-Customs border agencies, for conducting PCA and sharing results with each other
- (b) Capacity building, especially the on-job mentoring of the officials of border agencies

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Lao Customs has been following Post-Clearance Audit since 2007. However, PCA functioning in Lao Customs is confined to an asset verification exercise, rather than a comprehensive scrutiny of trader's own accounts and commercial records. Hence, it needs qualitative upgradation, including capacity building of the staff for making them more effective. Other border agencies also need to evolve PCA mechanism to supplement their risk-based border inspections.

The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) aims to provide following support:

1. Strengthening the existing system of Post-Clearance Audit in Customs for enhancing compliance
2. Development of Operation Manual and guidelines for conducting PCA in Customs by using traders' own financial accounts and commercial records.
3. Introduction of post clearance audit in other agencies, like Food & Drugs Department and plant & quarantine agencies by restructuring their post-marketing compliance system.
4. Capacity building of various border agencies for an effective post-clearance audit.

However, due to fund constraints, WB support is limited and hence, support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities:

- (a) Development of Operation Manuals and protocols in non-Customs border agencies, for conducting PCA and sharing results with each other.
- (b) Capacity building, especially the on-job mentoring of the officials of border agencies.

7.6.1
7.6.2**Indicative date of implementation**

31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation

31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

Project support for Customs Department that has been conducting time-release studies periodically to organize training workshops in provinces for capacity building of Customs, Food & Drugs and quarantine officials at the border to take part in the next TRS for data collection and also to expand its scope to include off-border documentary compliance.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Lao Customs has been conducting Time Release Study (TRS) surveys for many years and in the last survey conducted in February 2019, it tried to include other border agencies as well.

The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) has assured to provide following support:

1. To Customs, for conducting TRS survey (using WCO's TRS software) in 2020
2. Capacity building of non-Customs agencies at the border for joining in the future TRS surveys

However, due to fund constraints, WB support is limited and hence, support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities beyond 2020:

- (a) To conduct TRS survey for Customs and other border agencies beyond 2020, particularly including the time taken in issuing licenses and for other documentary compliances
- (b) Capacity building of the officials of Customs and other border agencies for this purpose

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Lao Customs has been conducting Time Release Study (TRS) surveys for many years and in the last survey conducted in 2020, it expanded its scope to capture the time taken by various cross-border regulatory authorities for issuance of various licences and permits by needed for import, export and transit.

The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) continues to provide following support:

1. To Customs, for conducting TRS survey (using WCO's TRS software) in 2022 and 2024.
2. Capacity building of non-Customs agencies at the border for joining in the future TRS surveys.
3. The TRS 2022 and 2024 survey will continue to cover the areas of survey to the field of license issuance with improved methodology and also aims to include licenses/permits issued at the provincial level.



7.7.1	Indicative date of implementation	Definitive date of implementation
7.7.2 (a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (i), (ii)	31 December 2022	31 December 2024
7.7.3 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g)		
7.7.4		
7.7.5		
7.7.6		
	Assistance required for implementation	
	International TA for Customs to help in the capacity building of its officials, especially to organize a field visit of select number of officials to a country with developed scheme of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) collaborations, such as South Korea, Thailand, New Zealand or India.	
	Tags: <i>Human resources and training</i>	
	Donor Agencies: World Bank, International Finance Corporation, World Customs Organization	
	Progress reported	
	Lao Customs has already launched an Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) program with the assistance of WB (IFC) and has also conducted rigorous training of its staff with the WCO help recently. It however requires continued support in capacity building of its staff and the private sector for developing a robust system of AEO regime.	
	The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) has assured to provide following support:	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legal & procedural changes in customs for an effective AEO scheme 2. Development of detailed guidelines for processing of applications and validation of AEOs 	
	However, due to fund constraints, WB support is limited and hence, support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities beyond 2020:	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Capacity building of Customs staff for conducting AEO validation and development of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on AEOs (b) Awareness generation of the private sector for developing voluntary compliance to AEO requirements 	

Donor Agencies: World Bank, International Finance Corporation, World Customs Organization

Progress reported

Lao Customs has already launched an Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) program with the assistance of WB (IFC) and has also conducted rigorous training of its staff with the WCO help recently. It however requires continued support in capacity building of its staff and the private sector for developing a robust system of AEO regime.

The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) has provided following support:

1. Legal & procedural changes in customs for an effective AEO scheme.
2. Development of detailed guidelines for processing of applications and validation of AEOs.

Due to fund constraints, WB support is limited and hence, support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities:

- (a) Revising the scheme for tier based AEO program as not many economic operators are attracted to join the scheme due to its stringent qualifying criteria for validation.
- (b) Capacity building of Customs staff for conducting AEO validation and development of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on AEOs.
- (c) Awareness generation of the private sector for developing voluntary compliance to AEO requirements.



8.1
8.2 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

International TA for Customs to evolve a common national framework, a new border management model (BMM) in collaboration with other border agencies, like quarantine and food & drugs etc. for joint inspection at border crossings. TA will also be needed for sharing common facilities and joint controls in cooperation with cross-border counterparts, particularly for rolling out Single Stop Inspection at the major crossings. Support also needed for capacity building of officials for implementing the purposed border management model.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) has assured to provide following support:

1. To evolve an efficient mechanism of border management involving Customs and other agencies for conducting joint inspection and clearance at the border using Customs' ASYCUDA platform
2. To develop special procedures for clearance of perishables (like fresh fruits & vegetables and fisheries) on priority
3. Capacity building of Customs, Food & Drugs, and Plant & Animal Quarantine departments for joint inspection and clearance by using Customs' selectivity module

However, due to fund constraints, WB support is only limited to in-country border-agency cooperation and hence, support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities beyond 2020, which will involve cross-border cooperation:

- (a) Provision of infrastructure for common border facilities or juxtaposed border posts with neighbouring countries at prominent border crossings
- (b) Development of procedures and instructions for Customs and other border agencies for allowing Single Stop Inspections in collaboration with the cross-border administrations at key border posts
- (c) Capacity building of the staff of Customs and other border agencies on cross-border cooperation for Single Stop Inspections and clearance

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

The WB under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP) has assured to provide following support:

1. To evolve an efficient mechanism of border management involving Customs and other agencies for conducting joint inspection and clearance at the border using Customs' ASYCUDA platform
2. To develop special procedures for clearance of perishables (like fresh fruits & vegetables and fisheries) on priority
3. Capacity building of Customs, Food & Drugs, and Plant & Animal Quarantine departments for joint inspection and clearance by using Customs' selectivity module

However, due to fund constraints, WB support is only limited to in-country border-agency cooperation and hence, support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities, which will involve cross-border cooperation:

- (a) Provision of infrastructure for common border facilities or juxtaposed border posts with neighbouring countries at prominent border crossings
- (b) Development of procedures and instructions for Customs and other border agencies for allowing Single Stop Inspections in collaboration with the cross-border administrations at key border posts
- (c) Capacity building of the staff of Customs and other border agencies on cross-border cooperation for Single Stop Inspections and clearance

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

Indicative date of implementation

31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation

31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

International TA for the Department of Agriculture to review its procedural formalities and documentation requirements for expediting clearance process, particularly for perishable goods. Customs Department needs project support, to improve ASYCUDA procedure to enable centralized processing of declarations and for developing a Service Charter, with mechanism for regular monitoring and performance evaluation by its internal Audit. Assistance is also required by the Department of Import & Export for rolling out its e-CO (Electronic Certificate of Origin) facility to provinces and upgrading its trade data collection & dissemination system. Support also needed for capacity building of government personnel engaged in these tasks.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Review of border procedures is planned by Customs and other border agencies under the WB's Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP), which has assured to provide following support:

1. Revision of border procedures and documentation requirements of Customs, food & drugs, plant and animal quarantine departments with the purpose of reducing the processing time and cost
2. Development of suitable procedures for clearance of import, export & transit cargo transported by rail and multimodal means of transport
3. Review of clearance procedures for the goods using the rail link connecting to Laem Chabang port in Thailand
4. Capacity building of Customs, Food & Drugs, and Plant & Animal Quarantine departments for applying revised procedures

Support of development partners/WTO is required for the revision of procedures followed by other agencies, like the Department of Standardization & Measures, Department of Transport and Department of Mines etc. for following activities:

- (a) Review of NTMs in order to reduce paperwork and streamline compliance procedures
- (b) Development of operational procedures and instructions for reducing documentary compliance on import, export & transit
- (c) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for on cross-border cooperation for Single Stop Inspections and clearance

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Review of border procedures is being undertaken by Customs and other border agencies under the WB's Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP), which has assured to provide following support:

1. Revision of border procedures and documentation requirements of Customs, food & drugs, plant and animal quarantine departments with the purpose of reducing the processing time and cost.
2. Development of suitable procedures for clearance of import, export & transit cargo transported by rail and multimodal means of transport.
3. Review of clearance procedures for the goods using the rail link connecting to Laem Chabang port in Thailand.
4. Capacity building of Customs, Food & Drugs, and Plant & Animal Quarantine departments for applying revised procedures.
5. Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for cross-border cooperation for Single Stop Inspections and clearance.

Support of development partners/WTO is required for the revision of procedures followed by other agencies, like the Department of Import and Export, Department of Standardization & Metrology, Department of Transport and Department of Mines etc. for following activities:

- (a) Review of NTMs in order to reduce paperwork and streamline compliance procedures.
- (b) Development of operational procedures, regulations, and instructions for reducing documentary compliance on import, export & transit.

10.2.1 10.2.2 10.2.3	Indicative date of implementation 31 December 2022	Definitive date of implementation 31 December 2024
<hr/> Assistance required for implementation		
<p>Technical Assistance to review relevant laws in order to streamline import and export permits and other necessary requirements. Assistance is needed to develop a government-wide strategy to replace all documentation with electronic processing especially in other border related agencies.</p>		
<p>Technical Assistance needed to promote border coordination as well as assist other agencies to transition to electronic document.</p>		
<p>Human resources/training-capacity building for relevant border agency officials to ensure enhanced border coordination.</p>		
<p>Assistance needed to capacitate other agencies with ICT tools and enablers in order to meet international standards for computerized system as well as expedite clearance.</p>		
<p>Tags: <i>Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Institutional procedures, Human resources and training</i></p>		
<hr/> <p>Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.</p>		
<hr/> <p>Donor Agencies: World Bank</p>		
<hr/> <p>Progress reported</p>		
<p>Customs and other agencies are accepting authenticated copies of supporting documents and Lao PDR does not require any assistance in this regard.</p>		

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Customs and other agencies are accepting authenticated copies of supporting documents. With the roll out of LNSW, and provision for electronic processing of documents thereunder, documents will be available in the LNSW system for use by all the participating departments. Lao PDR does not require any assistance in this regard.

However, assistance is needed to develop a government-wide strategy to replace the paper based with electronic processing, especially in issuing agencies and border agencies.

Technical Assistance needed to promote coordination among related agencies to transition to electronic document.

Human resources/training-capacity building for relevant officials to ensure enhanced border coordination.

Assistance needed to capacitate other agencies with ICT tools and enablers in order to meet international standards for computerized system.

10.3.1
10.3.2**Indicative date of implementation**

31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation

31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

International TA for Customs Department, Department of Import & Export, Food & Drugs Department, Department of Agriculture and Department of Standards & Metrology to revise their laws and procedures for complying with international standards. Customs Department also needs support for organizing workshops with other stakeholders for generating awareness about these changes.

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework, Human resources and training, Awareness-raising*

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP), the WB has assured support to the Lao Customs Department in revision of its law and regulations to align them with international standards, which includes the following:

1. Revision of Customs law and regulations to comply with the TFA provisions and Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) standards
2. Capacity building of Customs for implementing the revised law and regulations during 2020.

Support of development partners/WTO is required for other line departments, like the Department of Agriculture, Food & Drug Department, Department of Standardization & Measures, Department of Transport, Department of Industry & Handicraft and Department of Mines etc. for following activities:

- (a) Revision of their laws and regulations to comply with the international standards in respective areas
- (b) Development of operational procedures and instructions to translate them into action, and
- (c) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above changes, especially after 2020, when WB project would have exhausted its allocated funds under the current project.

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP), the WB has assured support to the Lao Customs Department in revision of its law and regulations to align them with international standards, which includes the following:

1. Revision of Customs law and regulations to comply with the TFA provisions and Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) standards;
2. Capacity building of Customs for implementing the revised law and regulations.

Similarly, FDD has been following the standards and guidelines laid down under the FAO WHO's Codex Alimentarius for clearance of food items. On the same lines, DOLF has been applying guidelines issued by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH/OIE) in regulating import and export of cattle and poultry products. DOA too has been following the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in sampling and clearance of plant materials and pesticides etc.

However, capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above is required.



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

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

Lao PDR required support on the following activities:

- a) Regular study and review of procedures and documentation requirements of border agencies, like the Department of Food & Drugs and Department of Agriculture (Plant & Animal Quarantine departments) to ensure that common border procedures and documentation requirements are followed throughout the country;
- b) Development of monitoring mechanism for ensuring common border procedures and documentation, and
- c) Capacity building of the staffs of these agencies for implementing above changes.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

With the automation of customs processes using ASYCUDA, common procedures and documentation are being followed by Customs throughout the country. Further, under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP), the WB has assured support to key border agencies in using the ASYCUDA platform for conducting joint border inspection and clearance, which is expected to bring uniformity in border procedures across the country.

However, support of development partners/WTO is required for following activities:

- (a) Regular study and review of procedures and documentation requirements of border agencies, like the Department of Food & Drugs and Department of Agriculture (Plant & Animal Quarantine departments) to ensure that common border procedures and documentation requirements are followed throughout the country
 - (b) Development of monitoring mechanism for ensuring common border procedures and documentation, and
 - (c) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above changes.
-

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- (b) Development of monitoring mechanism for ensuring common border procedures and documentation, and
- (c) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above changes.

10.8.1
10.8.2**Indicative date of implementation**

31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation

31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

Lao PDR required support on the following activities:

- a) Revision of laws and procedures of non-Customs agencies for complying with the TFA provisions;
- b) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above changes.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

The Plant Protection Law of Lao PDR allows for return of goods back to the exporting country if the goods are found to be non-compliant with SPS regulations. However, there is no such provision under the Customs Law or other laws. Under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP), the WB has assured support to LCD for revision of its law and regulations, which will also include suitable provision for allowing return of imported goods found inconsistent with SPS or other technical regulations in line with TFA provision.

Support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities:

- (a) Revision of laws and procedures of non-Customs agencies for complying with the TFA provisions.
- (b) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above changes

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

The Plant Protection Law of Lao PDR allows for return of goods back to the exporting country if the goods are found to be non-compliant with SPS regulations. However, there is no such provision under the Customs Law or other laws. Under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP), the WB has assured support to LCD for revision of its law and regulations, which will also include suitable provision for allowing return of imported goods found inconsistent with SPS or other technical regulations in line with TFA provision.

However, support of development partners/WTO is required for the following activities:

- (a) Revision of laws and procedures of non-Customs agencies for complying with the TFA provisions.
- (b) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above changes.



	Indicative date of implementation	Definitive date of implementation
12.1.1	31 December 2022	31 December 2024
12.1.2		
12.2.1		
12.2.2		
12.3		
12.4.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f)		
12.4.2		
12.5.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f)		
12.5.2		
12.5.3		
12.6.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)		
12.6.2		
12.7.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)		
12.7.2		
12.8		
12.9.1		
12.9.2		
12.10 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h)		
12.11.1 (a), (b), (c)		
12.11.2		
12.12.1		
12.12.2		

Assistance required for implementation

Lao Customs Department has signed mutual cooperation agreements with customs administrations of neighbouring countries and needs international TA for developing requisite protocols capacity building of its officials to operationalize data exchange arrangement, especially with Thailand and China, its largest trading partners.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Currently, no donor support is available for customs cooperation.

Support of development partners/WTO is required for Lao Customs for following activities:

- (a) Development of protocols and procedures to implement various Customs cooperation agreement
- (b) Provision of technical assistance and ICT infrastructure for exchange of information with other customs administrations
- (c) Capacity building of the staff for implementing above.

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Under the Lao PDR's Competitiveness & Trade Project (LCTP), the WB has assured support to LCD for revision of its law and regulations to be in line with TFA provision. The LCT will also support the capacity building of the staff for implementing.

Legend

C	Notified in Cat. C	Cp	Partially notified in C	E	Extension of time requested
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Donor arrangement notified



Donor arrangement not yet notified

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Updated on 18 August 2023

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