WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TFAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

# Solomon Islands

**Ratified Agreement:** Yes

**Ratification Date:** 2022-04-14

| Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C) | | | Due date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Notified all category ABC designations | | | by 22 February 2018 | Yes |
| A - 29.8% | B - 14.3% | C - 55.9% | **Not yet notified** - 0.0% | |
| Notified indicative dates in Category B | | | by 22 February 2018 | Yes |
| Notified definitive dates in Category B | | | Extension agreed until 30 June 2020 | 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 | No |
| Notified Art. 10.4.3 | Category C | Definitive implementation date 31 December 2050 | No |
| Notified Art. 10.6.2 | Category A | Definitive implementation date 22 February 2018 | No |
| Notified Art. 12.2 | Category C | Definitive implementation date 31 December 2040 | No |

## Information on Assistance and Capacity Building

| | |
|---|---|
| Notified Art. 22.3 | No |

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

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | Publication | B | by 31 July 2022 | by 31 July 2022 |
| 1.2 | Information available through internet | B | by 31 July 2022 | by 31 July 2022 |
| 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 2023 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 2.2 | Consultations | B | by 31 December 2023 | by 31 December 2023 |
| 3 | Advance rulings | C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2040 |
| 4 | Procedures for appeal or review | C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2040 |
| 5.1 | Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections | C | by 31 December 2025 | by 31 December 2040 |
| 5.2 | Detention | C | by 22 February 2027 | by 31 December 2040 |
| 5.3 | Test procedures | C B»C | by 22 February 2027 | by 31 December 2040 |
| 6.1 | General disciplines on fees and charges | B | by 31 December 2024 | by 31 December 2024 |
| 6.2 | Specific disciplines on fees and charges | B | by 31 December 2021 | by 31 December 2021 |
| 6.3 | Penalty Disciplines | B | by 31 December 2021 | by 31 December 2021 |

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.1 | Pre-arrival processing | C B»C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2036 |
| 7.2 | Electronic payment | B C»B | by 31 December 2021 | by 31 December 2021 |
| 7.3 | Separation of release | C B»C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2036 |
| 7.4 | Risk management | C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2036 |
| 7.5 | Post-clearance audit | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 7.6 | Average release times | C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2036 |
| 7.7 | Authorized operators | C | by 22 February 2024 | by 31 December 2040 |
| 7.8 | Expedited shipments | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 7.9 | Perishable goods | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 8 | Border Agency Cooperation | C B»C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2040 |
| 9 | Movement of goods | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.1 | Formalities | C B»C | by 22 February 2020 | by 31 December 2040 |
| 10.2 | Acceptance of copies | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.3 | Use of international standards | C | by 22 February 2024 | by 31 December 2040 |

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10.4 | Single window | C | by 22 February 2027 | by 31 December 2050 |
| 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 | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.8 | Rejected Goods | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.9 | Temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 11 | Transit | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 12 | Customs cooperation | C B»C | by 22 February 2022 | by 31 December 2040 |

**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/SLB/2 | 2022-08-22 | Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance |

| Symbol | Date | Description |
| --- | --- | --- |
| G/TFA/N/SLB/1/Add.2 | 2022-08-19 | Category C notification |
| G/TFA/N/SLB/1/Add.1 | 2020-07-09 | Categories B and C notification - Addendum |
| G/TFA/N/SLB/1 | 2020-02-20 | Category B notification - Extension of time request to notify Cat. B definitive dates |
| WT/PCTF/N/SLB/1 | 2016-02-29 | Category A, B and C notification |

## Technical Assistance detailled information

### 3 Advance rulings

C

**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 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

### Assistance required for implementation

• Institutional Procedures:
To implement advanced rulings procedures, if an appropriate body is required to be set up. Advanced rulings contained in legislation but require support to implement necessary steps.
• Human Resources and Training:
To enable adequate provision of necessary information by local customs staff and training on complex HS and customs valuation issues.

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

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

### Progress reported

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.
Technical Assistance required:
• for training support and Policy development and review of regulatory framework.
• To establish Sectoral Unit to manage and enforce the Advance Ruling requirements.

C

**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 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

• Institutional Procedures:
To set up complaints and appeals review process. BSI has a unit that deals with review procedures, but wider support required to improve functioning.
• Human Resources and Training:
To manage appeals board.

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

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.
Technical Assistance required:
• To develop Policies and Institutional Procedures linking Border Agencies for processing appeals.
Need to establish an Administrative appeal authority.

## 5.1 Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections

C

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

**Indicative date of implementation**
31 December 2025

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

### Assistance required for implementation

• Biosecurity to develop risk management manual for all products with the eventual thinking of incorporating it to the upgraded version of Asycuda World. We review our Needs assessment on this measure and the World Bank Group report indicated then that Biosecurity needs to have a pure foods act and that biosecurity also needs to develop their risk management manual to be able to comply with the measure. During the assessment we were still using PC trade.

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

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

### Progress reported

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.
Technical Assistance required:
• Need support to reflect the provisions of the WTO agreement including other international and regional agreements in the draft legislation.
• A need for support on training and development of relevant Government stakeholder's requirements on imports. This may include new changes and review of Border agencies legislations.
• Need storage facilities in place to store detained goods for necessary inspection by relevant borders agencies.

C

5.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2027

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

• Infrastructure support:
Required to build detention facility as part of the wider testing facility required under Art. 5.3.
• Diagnostic and Needs Assessment:
To determine what infrastructure is required for testing and detention facilities to ensure compliance.

**Tags:** *Infrastructure and equipment, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

All importers are currently advised electronically on pending detention of goods for examination.

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.
Technical Assistance required:
• A need for Infrastructure support: Required to build detention facility as part of the wider testing facility required under Art. 5.3.
• Training and review of the relevant Legislations and requirements to improve the required provision on imports.

**5.3.1**
**5.3.2**
**5.3.3**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2027

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

• Infrastructure and equipment:
Support to build a testing facility to carry out inspections at border posts.
• Institutional Procedures:
Once infrastructure provided, required to set up and manage testing facility.
• Human Resources and Training:
Of personnel working in the National Public Health Laboratory and other labs to carry out tests on imported and exported food products for nutrient content and other risk factors.
Skill development for Environmental Health Officers to inspect and detect high risk food.

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

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Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** Food and Agriculture Organization, Enhanced Integrated Framework

## Progress reported

STDF project through FAO "Strengthening the capacity of the National Public Health Laboratory to provide services in support of Market Access for Solomon Islands Fish Exporters" June 2017-June 2022. The support was in targeting NPHL meeting international accreditation for accrediting the Microbiology Unit – this accreditation is still in progress. EIF in 2021 also supported in construction of NPHL Office facilities, trainings and equipment's. NPHL is still working on accrediting the Microbiology Unit of the NPHL to ISO 17025 under NATA & IANZ and to have the Chemistry Unit of the NPHL accredited if and when resources are made available.

Technical Assistance required:
• Infrastructure and Equipment:
Support to build a Testing facility to carry out inspections at the border.
• Institutional Procedures:
Once infrastructure provided, required to set up and manage testing facility.
• Human Resource and training:
National Public Health Laboratory and other laboratories to carryout test on targeted imported and exported food products.
• Skill development for Environment Health Officers to inspect and detect high-risk food.

**7.1.1**
**7.1.2**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2036

## Assistance required for implementation

• ICT:
For setting up electronic submission facilities for pre-arrival processing equipment and to improve clearance times in Customs and other agencies.
• Human Resources and Training:
To handle submission and processing of documentation in electronic format.

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

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Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Members:** Australia

**Donor Agencies:** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

## Progress reported

Status 2016:
The electronic cargo report was facilitated under the ASYCUDA system in 2016; Customs Rule, LN 35 of 22.04.15 under Customs & Excise Act 2009. This was achieved through working together with Border agencies; Shipping/Customs Agents. The ASYCUDA National Project commenced in 2012 and completed around 2017. Support of the project was from UNCTAD and DFAT Australia in 2016.

Status 2022:
Covid-19 has delayed major upgrade of ASYCUDA world to the latest cargo version.

Solomon Islands needs further support on:

• Harmonizing processes for all relevant border agencies and how to manage all necessary risks involved.
• ICT/ASYCUDA:
For setting up electronic submission facilities for pre-arrival processing equipment and to improve clearance times in Customs and other agencies.
• Human resource and training:
To handle submission and processing of documents in electronic format.

C

7.3.1
7.3.2 (a), (b)
7.3.3
7.3.4
7.3.5
7.3.6

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2036

## Assistance required for implementation

• Technical Assistance needed.
• Customs is doing it on a case-by-case basis.
• Potential high risk of revenue evasion using this procedure.

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

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.

Solomon Islands needs further support on:
• Policy & Legal Framework: Investigate, review and IT sub projects

C

7.4.1
7.4.2
7.4.3
7.4.4

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2036

## Assistance required for implementation

• ICT/Legislative and Regulatory Framework:
To upgrade current system of control to effectively manage risk, minimise freight costs and identify which management controls should be maintained, for imports going through customs procedures.

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

**Donor Members:** Australia

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Australia supports in developing a risk management system under a compliance management framework.

Solomon Islands needs further support on:
• ICT related Legislative and Regulatory Framework:
• To upgrade current system of control to effectively manage risk.
• Identify which management controls should be maintained for imports and their relevant procedures

C

7.6.1
7.6.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2036

## Assistance required for implementation

• Regulatory Framework:
To enable the monitoring and measurement of performance.
• Human Resources and Training:
Support to publish release times and other necessary information to comply with this article.

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

**Donor Members:** Australia

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Solomon Islands conducted TRS in August 2016, one year after introduction of the ASYCUDA system in June 2015. This was the only time TRS was carried out in the country.

Solomon Islands needs further support on:
• Regulatory Framework:
To establish formal Policy/Procedures to implement the TRS and its results on regular basis
• Human Resource and Training:
Need to train certain identified staff to take up responsibility for the task trained in design, implementation and analysis of a TRS.

C

**7.7.1**
**7.7.2 (a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (i), (ii)**
**7.7.3 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g)**
**7.7.4**
**7.7.5**
**7.7.6**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2024

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

• Legislative and Regulatory Framework:
Support to amend relevant regulation to enable compliance and to set up functions for special treatment for authorised operators.

**Tags:** *Legislative and regulatory framework*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.

Solomon Islands needs support on:
• Policy/Legal Framework:
Authorised Operators (AO) procedures to be developed and reflected in relevant legislation
Develop a national Policy mechanism on AO for coordinating and cooperating between Border agencies
Provide a wide sensitization and awareness to exporters, importers and Clearing Agents on the Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) program
• Internal Procedures:
Develop internal procedure requirements
• To review or amend relevant regulation to enable compliance and to set up functions for special treatment for authorised operators.

C

8.1

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

• Legislative and Regulatory Framework:
Requires a MoU to be implemented (currently a draft between BSI and SICED) to establish effective interagency cooperation.
• Establish arrangements to cooperate and coordinate through formal legislation/admin framework; incorporate agreed procedure into current clearance processes.
• Capacity building:
On new coordination approach and publication of procedures.

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

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Solomon Islands has established some Border Agencies Cooperation such as:
• Agreement Between the Government of Solomon Islands and the Government of Papua New Guinea on Border Arrangements 1997 (to be jointly under review as of August 2023).
• Framework Treaty Guiding Relations Between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands 2020.

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.

Solomon Islands needs support on:
• Establishing arrangements to cooperate and coordinate formal legislation and admin framework; incorporate agreed procedures into current clearance processes.
• Capacity Building on new coordination approach and Publication of Procedures.
• To setup a separate unit to be responsible over inter-agency networking nationally and abroad

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

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

• Legislative and Regulatory Framework:
Requires a MoU to be implemented (currently a draft between BSI and SICED) to establish effective interagency cooperation.
• Establish arrangements to cooperate and coordinate through formal legislation/admin framework; incorporate agreed procedure into current clearance processes.
• Capacity building:
On new coordination approach and publication of procedures.

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

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Solomon Islands has established some Border Agencies Cooperation such as:
• Agreement Between the Government of Solomon Islands and the Government of Papua New Guinea on Border Arrangements 1997 (to be jointly under review as of August 2023).
• Framework Treaty Guiding Relations Between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands 2020.

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.

Solomon Islands needs support on:
• Establishing arrangements to cooperate and coordinate formal legislation and admin framework; incorporate agreed procedures into current clearance processes.
• Capacity Building on new coordination approach and Publication of Procedures.
• To setup a separate unit to be responsible over inter-agency networking nationally and abroad

C

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

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

• TA to develop Business Process Reengineering (BPR)

**Tags:** *Legislative and regulatory framework*

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.

Solomon Islands needs support:
• TA to develop Business Process Reengineering (BPR).
• A need for Border agencies to improve on import and export procedures to increase flow of electronic submissions of documents for both imports and exports.

10.3.1
10.3.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2024

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

• Human Resources and Training:
To train relevant officials on the use of international standards and determine their implications on traders.
• Diagnostic and Needs Assessment:
To identify appropriate infrastructure needed to ensure continued compliance with international standards is required.
Support to understand importing countries' market access rules from an environmental health perspective.

**Tags:** *Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Human resources and training*

**Donor Agencies:** Food and Agriculture Organization, Enhanced Integrated Framework

## Progress reported

STDF project through FAO "Strengthening the capacity of the National Public Health Laboratory to provide services in support of Market Access for Solomon Islands Fish Exporters" June 2017-June 2022. EIF in 2021 also supported in construction of NPHL Office facilities, trainings and equipment's.

Solomon Islands has established the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) under the Ministry of Health & Medical Services. The NPHL needs to be assessed if the Laboratory is internationally accredited and meets the international standard requirements.

Solomon Islands needs further support:
• To train relevant officials on the use of international standards and determine their implications on traders.
• To identify and acquire appropriate infrastructure needed to ensure continued compliance with international standards is required.
• To meet and maintain international accreditation for microbiology and chemistry.
• To understand importing countries market access rules from an environmental health perspective.

C

10.4.1
10.4.2
10.4.3
10.4.4

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2027

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2050

## Assistance required for implementation

• Capacity building:
Required to understand, implement and manage single window operations for local staff.
• Diagnostic and Needs Assessment:
For feasibility study; then determine if TA and capacity building required for implementing and managing single window.

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

**Donor Agencies:** World Bank

## Progress reported

Status 2019
The National Single Window Workshop was hosted by World Bank Group (WBG) June 2019. This was the start of the process to inform stakeholders regarding Solomon Islands National Single Window (SINSW) its work and the preparations needed.

Status 2022
The Customs modernization project which commenced in 2019 with significant International Customs expertise has determined and confirmed that LDC such as Solomon Islands is not prepared nor capable of developing and implementing an advanced multi agency SW system. Work on such system involve significant planning consultation, legislative review, training and upgrade of inform system across multi agencies. This is both uneconomic and time intensive unless commenced as a major single project.

Solomon Islands need further support:
• To formulate and incorporate the SW process into the Govt. policy and for possible reflection in the review Customs Legislation.
• Need required training to implement and manage SW operations for respective implementing agencies.
• Infrastructure development and Border agencies cooperation required.

**12.1.1**
**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**

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2040

## Assistance required for implementation

- Technical Assistance
- Sensitisation – for compliance
- Compliance management – awareness

**Tags:** *Human resources and training, Awareness-raising*

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Customs is currently reaching out to regional administrations to improve cooperation and information sharing, as evidenced by 2023 Fiji pacific law enforcement agency conference on transnational crime.

Customs is improving intelligence gathering and investigative capability through provision of additional staffing and technical and specialist training.

Solomon Islands received no support on any technical assistance and capacity building from donors.
Technical Assistance needed:
• Support to undertake awareness and capacity building for Officials on issues of cooperation
• Sensitization – for compliance.

**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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