



Appeals Mechanism

A transparent, independent, and efficient appeals mechanism builds trust between customs and the trade community by reviewing and, if necessary, correcting—within a reasonable timeframe—administrative actions taken during clearance. To establish an appeals mechanism, governments must ensure that national legislation includes the right to administrative and judicial appeal while also building institutional capacity, such as setting up customs appeal bodies and tribunals.

Internet Publication

Publishing customs documents and trade and transit regulations on the Internet not only increases transparency for the general public but also increases the efficiency of customs and the private sector while reducing operational costs. Internet publication benefits from an IT strategy and security parameters that guarantee the authenticity and control of the information so published.

Penalty Disciplines

Penalties are an important aspect of the administration of trade regulations. To be effective, they should reflect the magnitude of the infraction and be applied transparently and fairly. Information on penalties should be available to the public and private sector.

Transit Guarantee Systems

Valid guarantee systems for transiting goods avoid the need to impose provisional taxation while safeguarding revenue in case of inland diversion of the goods. A national customs transit procedure facilitates transit in one customs territory with the offices of entry and departure in the same customs territory. Multilateral customs transit guarantee procedures (regional and international) cover transit in several customs territories. They can also cover a customs territory that has harmonized transit procedures on a regional level. These systems reassure customs that it will recover costs if transiting goods do not reach their destination and protect the shipper from excessive inspections and interruptions in moving goods to and through landlocked countries.

Expedited Shipments

Expedited processes help provide a valuable shipping and delivery channel for traders. Qualified carriers—those with a good record of compliance and secure infrastructure—submit reduced documentation on low value entries so that a shipment can be released quickly, usually within three hours. Governments may require qualified carriers to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place for expedited shipment and may assess appropriate fees for this customs procedure. Customs maintains the right to examine shipments using risk management and post clearance audit.

Next steps

Governments interested in technical assistance from PTF should contact USAID at **PTF@usaid.gov**. You will be asked to provide a brief expression of interest. PTF will then provide a one-page formal application. Applications received by March 31, 2012 will be prioritized. Applications received after that date will be considered on a rolling basis. USAID will work with you directly to develop a detailed statement of work, timeline, and budget for implementation. Technical assistance and funding will be delivered consistent with the concluded WTO agreement on trade facilitation.



Partnership for Trade Facilitation



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Partnership puts goals within reach



Government ministries and border agencies in developing countries are setting ambitious goals to make trade easier and faster. In keeping with those goals, the Partnership for Trade Facilitation (PTF) will provide technical and financial resources to advance reforms that will help businesses participate in the global trading system while building the capacity of developing countries in areas of the proposed WTO agreement on trade facilitation. A US-sponsored technical assistance facility, PTF will work with government authorities to design and provide technical assistance and training that improves customs and trade processes and administration, supports revenue collection and rules enforcement, and fosters positive relationships between the government and the trade community.

How the partnership works

PTF is a flexible funding facility that will respond quickly to requests for assistance from developing country trade and customs authorities in relation to the proposed WTO agreement on trade facilitation. Because one size does not fit all in trade facilitation, PTF will work to tailor the type and mechanism of assistance to specific needs. This could involve providing funding directly to government partners implementing a reform program, or providing access to a broad range of US Government expertise in trade facilitation.

Partnership assistance

Since 2000, the US Government has provided developing countries \$13 billion in trade-related technical assistance and training, including in many areas of trade facilitation—customs valuation, risk management, procedure streamlining and automation, and trusted trader programs. USAID expands on this commitment through PTF, which will provide multiple forms and types of assistance, such as

- Legal gap analysis and development of implementing regulations for customs reforms
- Development and administration of technical training programs
- Institutional and organizational capacity building
- Development of outreach and communications strategies
- Development of ICT strategies and ICT procurement.

These and other services will be focused initially on a limited number of technical areas, including areas covered by proposals submitted by the US Government during the negotiation of the proposed WTO agreement on trade facilitation.

Partnership service areas

Advance Rulings

Advance ruling systems allow traders to learn about an importing country's tariff classification, rules of origin, customs valuation criteria, and duty drawback and quota treatment for a good before that good is traded. AR systems ensure a consistent and transparent application of customs laws and regulations, allow customs to better allocate resources to high-risk shipments, project revenue streams more accurately, and foster trust between customs and traders. AR systems require a legal foundation, procedural guidelines, and a record-keeping system.

Pre-arrival Processing/Early Release of Goods

Pre-arrival processing (PAP) allows traders to submit import documentation and other required information to customs and other border agencies before goods arrive. If no further examinations, physical inspections, or submissions are required—and if duties and taxes are paid or a guarantee sufficient to ensure such payment is posted—goods are released on arrival. PAP is most effectively done by electronic submission of data.

