

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Support

MAKING COMMITMENTS AND ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE



Nathan Associates helps customs authorities and other border management agencies meet their trade facilitation obligations so countries can reap the benefits of faster, more efficient trade.

In December 2013, WTO members reached consensus on the Trade Facilitation Agreement, codifying important aspects of integrated border management, customs-to-customs cooperation, and private sector compliance with customs regulations. The OECD has estimated that the agreement could cut trade costs for low-income countries by almost 14.5 percent and for high-income countries by 10 percent.

Trade Facilitation Agreement requirements fall into four categories. Nathan Associates Inc. provides support to developing countries and regional organizations in all four:

Procedural simplification. Prerival processing of goods, electronic payments, expedited shipment, and fewer documents and formalities

Compliance management. Risk management, authorized economic operator, and postclearance audit programs that address supply chain security while rewarding traders' voluntary compliance by expediting clearance and facilitating trade

Integrated border management. Coordination among customs, agriculture, and public health agencies, and the like through a single window with uniform procedures and documents

Transparency and public-private dialogue. Publication of trade laws, regulations, and procedures to eliminate ambiguity in the clearance of goods and remove opportunities for corrupt practices.

Deadlines for making category commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and for accepting the agreement in full are looming. Nathan Associates can help your country prepare its WTO commitments and comply with agreement provisions.

In April 2014 Nathan Associates conducted workshops on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement for the public and private sectors in Central America. Ambassador Eduardo Sperisen-Yurt, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the WTO and Chairperson of the Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation, spoke about the negotiating process and significance of the agreement.

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