WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TFAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

# Nicaragua

**Ratified Agreement:** Yes

**Ratification Date:** 2015-08-04

| Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C) | | | Due date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Notified all category ABC designations | | | by 22 February 2017 | Yes |
| A - 76.9% | B - 16.8% | C - 6.3% | **Not yet notified** - 0.0% | |
| Notified indicative dates in Category B | | | by 22 February 2017 | Yes |
| Notified definitive dates in Category B | | | by 22 February 2018 | Yes |
| 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 C | Definitive implementation date 22 June 2022 | 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 | B | by 22 February 2019 | by 22 December 2019 |
| 1.2 | Information available through internet | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 1.3 | Enquiry points | C E | by 22 February 2020 | by 22 June 2026 |
| 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 | C | by 22 February 2020 | by 22 December 2020 |
| 5.2 | Detention | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 5.3 | Test procedures | C E | by 22 February 2022 | by 22 June 2027 |
| 6.1 | General disciplines on fees and charges | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 6.2 | Specific disciplines on fees and charges | B E | by 22 February 2019 | by 22 December 2023 |
| 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 | B | by 22 February 2019 | by 22 December 2020 |
| 7.7 | Authorized operators | B C»B | by 22 February 2019 | by 22 December 2020 |
| 7.8 | Expedited shipments | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 7.9 | Perishable goods | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 8 | Border Agency Cooperation | B | by 22 February 2020 | by 22 December 2020 |
| 9 | Movement of goods | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 10.1 | Formalities | A | | by 22 February 2017 |
| 10.2 | Acceptance of copies | B | by 22 February 2020 | by 22 December 2020 |
| 10.3 | Use of international standards | A | | by 22 February 2017 |

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10.4 | Single window | C E | by 22 February 2020 | by 22 June 2022 |
| 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/NIC/4/Rev.2 | 2026-03-31 | Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance - Revision 2 |

| Symbol | Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.7 | 2025-07-16 | Extension of implementation dates |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/2/Rev.2 | 2024-11-01 | Article 22.3 - Revision |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.6 | 2024-07-07 | Extension of implementation dates |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.5 | 2024-03-01 | Extension of implementation dates |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/2/Rev.1 | 2023-02-22 | Article 22.3 - Revision |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/5/Corr.1 | 2023-02-22 | Article 22.3 - Corrigendum (en español solamente) |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/4/Rev.1 | 2023-02-20 | Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance - Revision |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/5 | 2023-02-17 | Article 22.3 (en español solamente) |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.4 | 2023-02-17 | Extension of implementation dates |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.3 | 2022-10-06 | Extension of implementation dates |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/4 | 2020-08-12 | Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.2 | 2020-08-12 | Category C notification |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/3 | 2020-01-06 | Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 & 12.2.2 |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/2 | 2019-11-20 | Article 22.3 |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.1 | 2018-07-30 | Categories A, B and C notification - Addendum 1 |
| G/TFA/N/NIC/1 | 2017-07-27 | Categories A, B and C notification |
| WT/PCTF/N/NIC/1 | 2014-07-03 | Category A notification |

## Experience Sharing

**Digitalization**

| Date | Title |
| --- | --- |
| 22 October 2024 - 24 October 2024 | Central American Strategy for Trade Facilitation and Competitiveness |

## Technical Assistance detailled information

### 1.3 Enquiry points

C

1.3.1
1.3.2
1.3.3
1.3.4

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
22 June 2026

### Assistance required for implementation

• Administration of the IPSA website and support for updating the content of this website. Website administrator: US$1,000/month × 2 years.
• Creation of the IPSA outreach office. IPSA outreach office official: US$1,000/month × 3 years.
• Technical assistance from computer and programming specialists to develop and improve website automation for the National Commission for the Control and Regulation of Toxic Substances, so as to meet the Commission's new requirements; and financial assistance to acquire computer equipment, software and licences. Approximate cost: US$55,000.
• Technical and financial assistance for the creation and implementation of a TFA-consistent national information system for the Ministry of Health (MINSA).
• Financial assistance for setting up an information system that provides immediate and relevant information on formality status and migration.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment*

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

To date, Nicaragua has not received any technical assistance or capacity building support from donors to implement the provisions of Article 1.3. The notified requirements, with the exception of point 5, therefore still apply:
1. Administration of the Institute for Agricultural and Livestock Protection and Health (IPSA) website and support for updating the content of this website; website administrator.
2. Creation of the IPSA outreach office; IPSA outreach office official.
3. Technical assistance from computer and programming specialists to develop and improve website automation for the National Commission for the Control and Regulation of Toxic Substances (CNRCST), so as to meet the Commission's new requirements; and financial assistance to acquire computer equipment, software and licences.
4. Technical and financial assistance for the creation and implementation of a TFA-consistent national information system for the Ministry of Health (MINSA).
5. Financial assistance for setting up an information system that provides immediate and relevant information on formality status and migration.

Additional technical assistance and capacity building:

6. Establishment of a help desk (software) enabling users and officials to interact in real time and a glossary of frequently asked questions, with a view to improving the information and communication service provided by IPSA.
7. Establishment of technological kiosks with the necessary equipment in Puerto Corinto and at the border posts of El Guasaule, El Espino, Las Manos, San Pancho and Peña Blanca in order to provide land freight carriers with information and access to the procedure management services offered by the Directorate-General of Migration and Foreign Nationals (DGME).
8. Capacity building for technical staff from the CNRCST to ensure sustainable implementation of the proposed measures. Assistance is also needed to establish a computer system to manage formalities and services for CNRCST users.
With regard to point 5, the above-mentioned requirements have been met using DGME funds. An information system for online processing of passports is being set up, as are interactive chats and a call centre for formality checks and follow-up. Forms for passport processing are available on the online platform.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Nicaragua para dar cumplimiento al artículo 1.3 Servicios de Información del Acuerdo de Facilitación del Comercio notificó el requerimiento de:

1. Asistencia técnica con especialistas en informática y programación para ampliar y mejorar la automatización del sitio web de la Comisión Nacional de Control y Regulación de Sustancias Tóxicas (CNRCST), conforme a los nuevos requerimientos propios de la Comisión, así como asistencia financiera, para la adquisición de equipos informáticos, software y licencias.

2. Complementaria a la asistencia técnica notificada, se requiere del fortalecimiento de capacidades del personal técnico de la CNRCST, para garantizar la sostenibilidad en la implementación de las medidas que proponen. Así mismo, se requiere asistencia para implementar un sistema informático para la gestión de trámites y servicios de los usuarios de la CNRCST.

Para el numeral 1, se informa que, con fondos propios de la institución, la Comisión Nacional de Registro y Control de Sustancias Tóxicas (CNRCST) ya cuenta con sitio web propio, en el cual se reflejan los trámites, aranceles y procedimientos; a su vez tiene una sección donde se encuentran los Instrumentos Internacionales y el Marco Legal, los formularios y plantillas de solicitudes de TODOS los trámites de control que realiza la CNRCST. El sitio web se actualiza constantemente en lo referido a los aspectos técnicos y legales. Para lo cual se adjunta link https://cnrcst.gob.ni/

Para el numeral 2, la CNRCST actualmente está desarrollando un sistema propio que permitirá complementarse con VUCEN y el Sistema de Control de Gestión que se utilizará en los Puestos de Control de Frontera, de conformidad con lo establecido en el Programa de Integración Fronteriza (PIF), así como los trámites de permisos de importación y exportación, de esta manera para abril 2023.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

C

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

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
22 December 2020

## Assistance required for implementation

• Advice on completing notification procedures.
• A section is needed on the IPSA website where the country's sanitary and phytosanitary status can be published, together with IPPC, OIE and WTO information.

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

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

In order to comply with Article 5.1 of the TFA ("Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections"), Nicaragua notified the need for: 1. Advice on completing notification procedures, 2. A section on the IPSA website where the country's sanitary and phytosanitary status can be published, together with International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and WTO information.
In this regard, IPSA's own funds have been used to provide consulting on "Support for the review and preparation of procedural manuals for the substantive directorates and support areas" - a process through which agricultural quarantine procedures are being updated. Moreover, efforts are under way to develop detection procedures for entry points and a notification completion procedure for the Plant Quarantine Department of the Agricultural Quarantine Directorate and the Plant Health Directorate.
The Plant Health Directorate has a phytosanitary alert procedure for notifying the presence of regulated pests. The same procedure is used to provide notification of international phytosanitary alerts issued through the IPPC website.
The Animal Health Directorate immediately (within 24 hours) notifies the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) through the Nicaraguan delegate. A final report is sent to the OIE to remove the alert once the outbreak has been controlled or eradicated.
In light of the above, Nicaragua will not require technical assistance or capacity building support from donors to implement the measure.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

5.3.1
5.3.2
5.3.3

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2022

**Definitive date of implementation**
22 June 2027

## Assistance required for implementation

Capacity building to improve phytosanitary diagnostic laboratories in the departments of Managua, Estelí, León, and Rivas, and the national chemical and biological residues laboratory, through the acquisition of equipment, materials and reagents, the enhanced implementation of diagnostic methods, staff training, and the strengthening of regional laboratory infrastructure, with a view to better serving exporters and importers of products and by-products of plant origin.
Details of financial assistance:
Reagents, consumables and equipment for central and regional laboratories: US$700,000.
Strengthening of the diagnostic and technical capacity of personnel (diploma-based training, workshops, specialized courses, post-graduate courses, internships, etc.): US$100,000.
Remodelling and refitting of three regional phytosanitary diagnostic laboratories in the departments of Estelí, León and Rivas: US$300,000.
TOTAL: US$ 1,100,000

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

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

Nicaragua has not yet received assistance or capacity building support from donors to implement the provisions of Article 5.3.The notified requirements therefore still apply:
1. Capacity building to improve phytosanitary diagnostic laboratories in the departments of Managua, Estelí, León and Rivas, and the national chemical and biological residues laboratory, through the acquisition of equipment, materials and reagents, the enhanced implementation of diagnostic methods, staff training, and the strengthening of regional laboratory infrastructure, with a view to better serving exporters and importers of products and by-products of plant origin.
Details of financial assistance:
• Reagents, consumables and equipment for central and regional laboratories.
• Strengthening of the diagnostic and technical capacity of personnel (diploma-based training, workshops, specialized courses, post-graduate courses, internships, etc.).
• Remodelling and refitting of three regional phytosanitary diagnostic laboratories in the departments of Estelí, León and Rivas.
Additional assistance and capacity building:
2. Assistance and capacity building support to improve diagnostic techniques though the validation and accreditation of test methods, as well as to implement a quality management system at the National Laboratory for Phytosanitary Diagnostics and Seed Quality and standardize the methodologies of regional laboratories as a prerequisite for accreditation in central laboratories under ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

C

10.4.1
10.4.2
10.4.3
10.4.4

**Indicative date of implementation**
22 February 2020

**Definitive date of implementation**
22 June 2022

## Assistance required for implementation

Financial support for acquiring equipment and licences and contracting specialized computer design and development services, with a view to the continued improvement of the VUCEN system.
Technical assistance to improve the system.

**Tags:** *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment*

**Donor Agencies:** Inter-American Development Bank

## Progress reported

In order to comply with Article 10.4 of the TFA ("Single Window"), Nicaragua notified the need for:
1. Financial support for acquiring equipment and licences and contracting specialized computer design and development services, with a view to the continued improvement of the VUCEN system.
2. Technical assistance to improve the system.
Additional technical assistance and capacity building:
3. Implementation of the "foreign trade e-signature", with a view to effectively improving trade with partner countries and increasing competitiveness in international trade through a reliable system that will enable government bodies involved in procedures relating to the import and export of goods to generate electronically signed documents.
In this regard, it should be noted that points 1 and 2 are currently being implemented under Border Integration Programme 3484/BL-NI. The Single Window component of that programme, entitled "Efficient and effective border control procedures under the Border Integration Programme (BIP)", is funding operational aspects of the VUCEN system, including the functional expansion of VUCEN's IT system and the development of its technological platform.
Regarding point 3, the requirement concerning the implementation of the "foreign trade e-signature" still applies.
Nine foreign trade-related institutions will work with the VUCEN system to simplify procedures and reduce the time taken to obtain import and export permits.

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

**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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