



Saint Lucia

Ratified Agreement: Yes

Ratification Date: 2015-12-08

Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C)	Due date	Status
Notified all category ABC designations	by 22 February 2017	Yes
A - 49.2% B - 22.3% C - 28.6%	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 B	Definitive implementation date 29 December 2023	Partial
Notified Art. 10.4.3	Category C	Definitive implementation date 30 December 2026	No
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
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Legend: Yes No Notification presented Notification due No Notification not yet due

Implementation schedule		Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
1.1	Publication	B	by 31 December 2020 by 29 December 2023
1.2	Information available through internet	B	by 15 April 2020 by 14 April 2025
1.3	Enquiry points	C E	by 31 December 2018 by 30 June 2023
1.4	Notification	B	by 31 December 2018 by 29 December 2023
2.1	Comments and information before entry into force	B	by 31 December 2020 by 28 July 2023
2.2	Consultations	B	by 31 December 2020 by 28 July 2023
3	Advance rulings	C E	by 28 May 2021 by 30 June 2024
4	Procedures for appeal or review	B	by 28 April 2023 by 28 April 2028
5.1	Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	C E	by 28 May 2025 by 30 June 2027
5.2	Detention	A	by 22 February 2017
5.3	Test procedures	B	by 31 August 2028 by 31 August 2033
6.1	General disciplines on fees and charges	C	by 31 December 2025 by 31 December 2030
6.2	Specific disciplines on fees and charges	C	by 31 December 2025 by 31 December 2030
6.3	Penalty Disciplines	A	by 22 February 2017
7.1	Pre-arrival processing	B	by 30 April 2021 by 28 April 2023
7.2	Electronic payment	B	by 30 April 2021 by 28 April 2023
7.3	Separation of release	A	by 22 February 2017
7.4	Risk management	C E	by 30 April 2020 by 30 June 2024

Implementation schedule		Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
7.5	Post-clearance audit		by 30 April 2019 by 28 April 2023
7.6	Average release times		by 28 July 2028 by 31 December 2023
7.7	Authorized operators		by 31 December 2020 by 29 December 2026
7.8	Expedited shipments		by 22 February 2017
7.9	Perishable goods		by 31 December 2025 by 30 June 2027
8	Border Agency Cooperation		by 29 December 2023 by 31 December 2025
9	Movement of goods		by 22 February 2017
10.1	Formalities		by 31 December 2020 by 29 December 2023
10.2	Acceptance of copies		by 30 April 2020 by 30 June 2024
10.3	Use of international standards		by 22 February 2017
10.4	Single window		by 29 December 2023 by 30 December 2026
10.5	Preshipment inspection		by 22 February 2017
10.6	Use of customs brokers		by 22 February 2017
10.7	Common border procedures		by 22 February 2017
10.8	Rejected Goods		by 29 December 2023 by 31 December 2026
10.9	Temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing		by 22 February 2017
11	Transit		by 22 February 2017
12	Customs cooperation		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	G>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/LCA/3/Rev.1	2025-12-11	Artice 12.2.2 - Revision
G/TFA/N/LCA/5/Rev.1	2025-12-11	Donor arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance - Revision
G/TFA/2/LCA/INF/2	2025-12-11	Report on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement
G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.6	2025-08-27	Extension of implementation dates
G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.5	2025-03-04	Extension of implementation dates
G/TFA/2/LCA/INF/1	2023-11-08	Report on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement
G/TFA/N/LCA/4	2023-10-13	Article 22.3
G/TFA/N/LCA/5	2023-10-13	Donor arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance
G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.4	2023-08-23	Shifting of categories and extension of implementation dates
G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.3	2022-08-29	Extension of implementation dates
G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.2	2021-08-19	Extension of time request
G/TFA/N/LCA/3	2019-12-02	Article 12.2.2
G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.1	2019-08-23	Category C notification - Addendum
G/TFA/N/LCA/1	2018-09-04	Categories B and C notification
G/TFA/N/LCA/2	2018-09-04	Notification articles 1.4 and 10.6.2
WT/PCTF/N/LCA/1	2015-09-16	Category A notification

Experience Sharing

Implementation experience - COVID-19

Date	Title
20 October 2020 - 22 October 2020	OECS report

1.3 Enquiry points



1.3.1
1.3.2
1.3.3
1.3.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2018

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2023

Assistance required for implementation

- Training of personnel for service delivery.
- Setting up guidelines to cover the entire procedure (from receipt of request to the dispatching of the responses to the requesting party).
- Development and use of communication templates.
- Establishing standards and procedures of quality control, including fixed timelines for answers.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Saint Lucia was unable to identify or secure a donor to assist with implementation of this measure. In 2022, Saint Lucia made a request to a development partner for assistance to establish its enquiry point system including a request for assistance for another measure, however, at the time of the request, priority was given towards assisting Saint Lucia with the other measure due to the availability of resources.

Using national resources, Saint Lucia implemented an enquiry point system through a helpdesk feature on the Saint Lucia Customs and Excise Department website to deal with enquiries in relation to Article 1.1. of the WTO TFA including other trade and customs related enquiries. The helpdesk feature is accessible via the following link - [www.customs.gov.lc / http://www.customs.gov.lc/contact-us.php](http://www.customs.gov.lc/contact-us.php).

Saint Lucia also has a national enquiry point in place, details of which is available on the Customs website which is accessible via the same link as the help desk.

On this basis, Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has met the requirements of this measure.

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Further to the notification update of October 2023, Saint Lucia can confirm that other Border Regulatory Agencies (BRAs), in addition to the Customs & Excise Department, have also now established enquiry point facilities to accept and respond to trade related requests from the trading community. For these entities, enquiries can be made via email through the website or through published contact numbers. Other agencies are in the process of developing external websites but still have the facility to deal with phone and email enquiries expeditiously.

Border Regulatory Agencies have been encouraged to enhance their enquiry handling process further by maintaining a log of all enquiries received and responses provided. In addition, agencies are encouraged to develop a multi-agency policy framework with a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that includes defined timelines for responses.

It is anticipated that these additional tasks can be concluded internally by March 2026.

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
28 May 2021

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2024

Assistance required for implementation

- Legal drafter for the establishment of a legal or administrative document that addresses this measure.
- Technical assistance to develop and administer the system.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

The Government of Saint Lucia has been successful in securing assistance from the World Bank Group under its Trade Facilitation Support Programme for technical assistance and capacity building to implement an Advance Ruling Regime for Saint Lucia in accordance with Article 3 'Advance Rulings' of the TFA.

An in-country mission was conducted by a team from the World Bank from 7-10 March 2023 to undertake a needs assessment to determine what Saint Lucia requires to implement an Advance Ruling Regime.

On 21 August 2023, the Saint Lucia Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the development of the legislative, regulatory, administrative and operational framework required for the implementation of an Advance Ruling Regime with the support of the World Bank Group.

Having received Cabinet's endorsement to proceed with the necessary legal reforms, regulatory and administrative work, efforts are continuing towards developing the framework for Saint Lucia's Advance Ruling Regime.

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Further to the WTO notification of October 2023, and with the support of the World Bank Group, Saint Lucia prepared draft legislation to amend the Customs (Control and Management) Act to enable the issuance of Advance Rulings as per Article 3 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. This process was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and was subsequently presented to the Sitting of the House of Assembly on 19 August 2025.

The Customs (Control and Management) (Amendment) Act No.15 was passed in the House of Assembly on 19 August 2025 and in the Senate on 21 August 2025 and was published in the Saint Lucia Government Gazette on 8 September 2025.

The World Bank also provided capacity building support and training to Customs officials who will form a classification committee and will be responsible for drafting advance rulings.

Further technical assistance is required from the World Bank to enhance the overall competence of Customs officials who will form the newly convened Classification Committee as well as to map and document the whole AR process, draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Committee, develop standard operating procedures, sensitize the trading community and then formally implement the AR regime. Working in this regard is ongoing, including finalization of the AR regulations.

It is anticipated that these tasks can be concluded by June 2026.

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

Indicative date of implementation

28 May 2025

Definitive date of implementation

30 June 2027

Assistance required for implementation

Legal and regulatory assistance:

- St. Lucia Animal (National & International Movement & Disease Prevention) Act
- Plant Protection Act

Business process analysis:

- Set up clear areas of responsibility and mechanisms for carrying out related duties and tasks, including confirmatory tests validity across the whole country and process of notification of the component in the exporting country.

- Develop and validate a manual on standard operating procedures on import alert/rapid alert, including a proposal for border agency coordination. Disseminate the manual, if possible through a website, the concerned institutions with a view to clarify their respective interventions.

Training and capacity building:

- Provide training and capacity building for confirmatory testing for products that are the potential subjects of alerts and rapid alerts. Organize seminars for agents on the organization of inspection procedures, for technical staff in the areas of laboratory and laboratory management, rules, practices and equipment use according to international standards. Organize also focused seminars for economic operators.

Tags: *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Human resources and training***Donor Agencies:** World Bank**Progress reported**

Although some border regulatory agencies have established risk-based frameworks for notification of enhanced control, other agencies have yet to implement and/or sufficiently strengthen their respective frameworks.

Specifically, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Customs & Excise Department and the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards have established procedures for the notification of enhanced controls based on risk, while, the Ministry of Health is guided by the Public Health Act and there are procedures in place for inspection. In the case of the Ministry of Health, it is anticipated that controls will be further enhanced when modern food safety legislation is enacted. Work in that regard is ongoing.

Further support is therefore required to develop an agency wide policy framework for enhanced controls. This will include consolidating and documenting existing processes for consistent application and transparency.

It is anticipated that these tasks that will enhance overall consistency and transparency, can be concluded by June 2027.

6.1.1
6.1.2
6.1.3
6.1.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2025

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2030

Assistance required for implementation

- Review of the Service Charge Act

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework*

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

All Border Regulatory Agencies (BRAs) impose fees & charges directly associated with the clearance of goods. Some of these fees & charges are contained within their respective legislations but are not routinely scheduled separately on agency websites. No standardised procedures are in place for publication, but some agencies publish their fees & charges through the gazette process or communicate them to the trading community through other means such as emails, notices or upon request.

Whilst some reviews are currently being conducted, the BRAs do not currently have processes in place to ensure that fees & charges are being reviewed regularly and are proportionate to the cost of the service being provided. Overall, the processes are not fully documented, formalized or consistent and need to be consolidated and streamlined to increase predictability and consistency. The Customs & Excise Department is in the process of reviewing some of their fees and charges that are scheduled within the Customs (Control and Management) Act which is available on their website.

Technical assistance is required to conduct a comprehensive review (inventory) of the fees and charges being applied by all BRAs and develop an overarching policy framework that provides consistency and transparency to the trading community. This review should aim to consolidate some of the fees & charges, draft standard operating procedures (for the review and publication of fees) and ensure the revised regime is communicated to the trade in an easily accessible manner. For Customs & Excise, particularly for Article 6.2, some form of cost analysis would also need to be conducted to ensure that all fees & charges are proportionate/commensurate to the cost of the service being provided.

It is considered that the current definitive dates provide adequate time for alignment.

6.2 (i), (ii)

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2025

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2030

Assistance required for implementation

- Review of the Service Charge Act

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework*

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

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It is considered that the current definitive dates provide adequate time for alignment.

7.4.1
7.4.2
7.4.3
7.4.4

Indicative date of implementation
30 April 2020

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2024

Assistance required for implementation

- Training is required in both risk assessment and risk management to allow for better risk identification, analysis, assessment and treatment.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

The World Bank provided support with this measure in 2024 that resulted in an assessment report with recommendations to enhance the application of risk management by the Customs & Excise Department and other Border Regulatory Agencies (BRAs). Since then, the Customs & Excise Department has re-instated a Risk Management Unit (RMU) and has drafted a Risk Management Strategy. Members of the recently convened RMU are currently completing virtual training on Risk Management provided by the World Customs Organization.

The Customs declaration processing system, ASYCUDA World, allows for the identification and notification of the importation of high-risk consignments of interest to other BRAs. However, the selectivity module within ASYCUDA World is not currently being fully used to determine which consignments are controlled. Instead, selectivity is often determined by manual scrutiny of hard copy documents for commercial goods. Some non customs BRAs apply a risk-based approach to issuance of LPCOs based on commodity classification.

Further technical assistance is required from the World Bank to ensure a system-based risk management process is implemented and applied for all BRAs in a consistent and transparent manner. Support includes establishing an overarching compliance strategy, developing risk management frameworks, establishing functional risk management committees (and an inter-agency committee), and providing capacity building for the RMU, as well as support in the area of change management. All these support activities will ensure that the application of effective risk management is systematic and sustainable.

It is anticipated that these activities can be completed by June 2027.

7.6.1
7.6.2**Indicative date of implementation**
28 July 2028**Definitive date of implementation**
31 December 2023**Assistance required for implementation**

- Development of a legal or administrative document that deals with Average Release Times.
- Review and update the legal/regulatory framework to allow for seamless flow of information and coordination among institutions intervening in border-crossing operations.

Training and capacity building:

- Provide training and capacity building to staff/agencies of the concerned agencies and to economic operators on the interpretation of the study results.

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

Donor Agencies: Investment Climate Reform Facility

Progress reported

In 2022, Saint Lucia received technical assistance under the Investment Climate Reform Facility to develop its Average Time Release Study and was successful in implementing this measure having completed and launched the Time Release Study on 26 January 2023 as part of activities in observance of World Customs Day.

The Time Release Study is accessible via the Ministry of Commerce's website – www.commerce.gov.lc / <https://commerce.gov.lc/resources/index/17/page:3> and the Customs and Excise Department website – [www.customs.gov.lc](http://www.customs.gov.lc/TRS_2022.pdf) / http://www.customs.gov.lc/TRS_2022.pdf

Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has implemented this measure.

Donor Agencies: Investment Climate Reform Facility

Progress reported

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The Time Release Study is accessible via the Ministry of Commerce's website – www.commerce.gov.lc / <https://commerce.gov.lc/resources/index/17/page:3> and the Customs and Excise Department website – www.customs.gov.lc / http://www.customs.gov.lc/TRS_2022.pdf

Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has implemented this measure.

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
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
29 December 2026

Assistance required for implementation

The legislative and regulatory framework has to be further developed to take into account new processes and procedures, as well as the need for mutual recognition agreements. External assistance is also required to: (i) build the capacity of customs officials; and (ii) to develop awareness programmes aimed at enhancing the cooperation of potential operators in the sharing of confidential information critical to the process, and to ultimately improve the uptake of the programme.

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

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

One of the initiatives currently being pursued by the Customs & Excise Department includes the development and introduction of a Trusted Trader program, as a precursor to the implementation of a more substantial Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program. To achieve this ambition, Customs and Excise would need to develop a Compliance Strategy and conduct a client segmentation to identify suitable beneficiaries.

Technical assistance is therefore required to develop a Policy Framework/Compliance Strategy, to map the process, to set the criteria and conduct Client segmentation (using the management reports generated by ASYCUDA World). Support is also required to develop a sensitization and publicity campaign informing the trading community of this important facilitation measure. (Some of the work on this article may be delivered in conjunction with support activities under article 7.4 Risk Management (see above).

It is considered that the current extended definitive date may provide adequate time for alignment.

7.9.1 (a), (b)
7.9.2
7.9.3
7.9.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2025

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2027

Assistance required for implementation

- Review of existing policies, procedures and operations with respect to the management and handling of perishable goods at all ports of entry with a view to updating for the purpose of being aligned with international standards.

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework*

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

All relevant Border Regulatory Agencies (BRAs) have procedures in place to facilitate the expedited clearance of perishable goods. For the Customs & Excise Department, these procedures are provided for in the Customs (Control and Management) Act; the Ministry of Agriculture (Plant and Veterinary Health) this is similarly supported by legal frameworks. Under the Public Health Act of 2019, the Ministry of Health has the legal authority to condemn goods where appropriate.

Full alignment with this measure can be enhanced by developing a multi-agency policy framework and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Technical support is required to ensure that the aforementioned measure fully aligns with international standards and established best-practice examples.

It is anticipated that this work can be completed by June 2027.

10.2.1
10.2.2
10.2.3

Indicative date of implementation
30 April 2020

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2024

Assistance required for implementation

- Conduct a Diagnostic Assessment of the existence and usage of policies and legislations with regards to Acceptance of Copies across all border and regulatory agencies with a view to updating and developing the appropriate instrument in keeping with international standards.

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment*

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

The Electronic Transactions Act (2011) allows for the acceptance of electronic copies by Border Regulatory Agencies (BRAs). Most documentary requirements are accepted electronically, however some exceptions include certain Origin and Health Certificates. It is anticipated that with the expansion of the coverage of the automated E-Phyto and GEMS platform, that the number of instances where an original health certificate or phytosanitary certificate is required will be reduced significantly.

It is recognized that the current requirement for the submission of some hard copy documents, in addition to electronic document submission, can be enhanced to be in alignment with international standards. The Customs and Excise Department has therefore commenced a series of initiatives aimed at introducing paperless transactions in the cargo clearance process.

It is envisaged that this can be addressed under the technical support provided by the WBG under Article 7.4 Risk Management (see above) and 10.4 Single Window (see below) and this will include the need for an element of business process re-engineering.

It is anticipated that full alignment can be achieved by June 2028.

10.4.1
10.4.2
10.4.3
10.4.4

Indicative date of implementation
29 December 2023

Definitive date of implementation
30 December 2026

Assistance required for implementation

- Training and capacity building as well as financial assistance to obtain the necessary IT support.

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

Donor Members: Canada

Donor Agencies: Caribbean Community

Progress reported

The Government of Saint Lucia has been successful in securing the services of a Consultant through the Canada-CARICOM Expert Deployment Initiative. This Consultant has been contracted to develop the technical specifications for Saint Lucia's National Electronic Single Window. The technical work in this respect is still ongoing. This information is critical to redefining the scope of the platform to be implemented, costing the project, and in determining the level of external assistance and capacity building support that would be required for the successful implementation of the measure.

Once the technical specifications have been developed, Saint Lucia intends to approach development partners for technical assistance and capacity building including financial support to obtain the necessary IT system notified as a requirement for implementation of this measure.

Donor Agencies: World Bank, TFAF, Canada-CARICOM Expert Deployment Initiative

Progress reported

Further to the notification report to the WTO in October 2023, it can be advised that a high level Functional and Technical Specifications Document for Saint Lucia's Electronic Single Window (ESW) was prepared and finalized in December 2024 with the support of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF). Terms of Reference (TOR) and an Expression of Interest have been prepared and will be published soon subject to approval by the relevant authorities. A Single Window Evaluation Committee is also to be established to review tenders and to select a successful vendor.

Technical assistance is required to initially advise the Single Window Evaluation Committee on the tender evaluation process and generally support its deliberations. Support is also required to advise on international best practice in the implementation of an ESW and the effective monitoring of a ESW implementation plan.

Further advisory support will be required to conduct process mapping and business process re-engineering in addition to advisory support on investments in software and hardware for the ESW.

It is considered that the current definitive date provides adequate time for the completion of these initial tasks.

Legend

C	Notified in Cat. C	Cp	Partially notified in C	E	Extension of time requested
	Donor arrangement notified		Donor arrangement not yet notified		

Downloaded on 6 February 2026

Updated on 13 December 2025
