WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TFAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

Sri Lanka

Ratified Agreement: Yes

Ratification Date: 2016-05-31

Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C)			Due date	Status
Notified all category ABC designations			by 22 February 2017	Yes
A - 29.0%	B - 1.7%	C - 69.3%	**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 C	Definitive implementation date 10 October 2025	Yes
Notified Art. 10.4.3	Category C	Definitive implementation date 31 December 2030	No
Notified Art. 10.6.2	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2017	Yes
Notified Art. 12.2	Category C	Definitive implementation date 10 October 2025	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	C	by 30 June 2018	by 31 December 2024
1.2	Information available through internet	C	by 30 June 2018	by 31 December 2024
1.3	Enquiry points	C E	by 30 June 2018	by 30 June 2023
1.4	Notification	C	by 30 June 2018	by 10 October 2025
2.1	Comments and information before entry into force	C	by 31 December 2020	by 10 October 2025
2.2	Consultations	C	by 31 December 2020	by 27 August 2024
3	Advance rulings	C	by 31 December 2018	by 31 December 2025
4	Procedures for appeal or review	A		by 22 February 2017
5.1	Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	C E	by 31 December 2020	by 30 June 2023
5.2	Detention	A		by 22 February 2017
5.3	Test procedures	C	by 31 December 2020	by 10 October 2025
6.1	General disciplines on fees and charges	C E	by 31 December 2020	by 30 June 2024
6.2	Specific disciplines on fees and charges	C E	by 31 December 2018	by 30 June 2024
6.3	Penalty Disciplines	A		by 22 February 2017

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
7.1	Pre-arrival processing	B	by 31 December 2017	by 31 December 2019
7.2	Electronic payment	A		by 22 February 2017
7.3	Separation of release	C	by 31 December 2018	by 27 August 2024
7.4	Risk management	C	by 31 December 2018	by 10 October 2025
7.5	Post-clearance audit	C	by 31 December 2018	by 21 August 2024
7.6	Average release times	C	by 30 June 2018	by 15 December 2018
7.7	Authorized operators	C	by 31 December 2020	by 21 August 2024
7.8	Expedited shipments	A		by 22 February 2017
7.9	Perishable goods	C	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2024
8	Border Agency Cooperation	C	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2030
9	Movement of goods	A		by 22 February 2017
10.1	Formalities	C	by 31 December 2018	by 10 October 2025
10.2	Acceptance of copies	C	by 31 December 2018	by 10 October 2025
10.3	Use of international standards	C	by 31 December 2020	by 10 October 2025

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
10.4	Single window	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2030
10.5	Preshipment inspection	B	by 31 December 2017	by 31 December 2019
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	C	by 31 December 2020	by 10 October 2025

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/LKA/6	2026-06-03	Articles 1.4 and 12.2.2

Symbol	Date	Description
G/TFA/W/127	2026-02-06	Time Release Study - Communication from Sri Lanka
G/TFA/N/LKA/4/Add.1	2025-12-15	Earlier implementation
G/TFA/N/LKA/5	2025-09-24	Donor arrangements and TA progress
G/TFA/W/101	2024-10-18	Trade Facilitation measures for Authorized Operators - Communication from Sri Lanka
G/TFA/N/LKA/4	2024-09-04	Notification of earlier implementation
G/TFA/N/LKA/2/Rev.2	2024-09-04	Article 22.3 - Revision 2
G/TFA/N/LKA/1/Add.3	2022-08-31	Extension of time request
G/TFA/N/LKA/1/Add.2/Corr.1	2021-09-29	Extension of time request - Corrigendum
G/TFA/N/LKA/1/Add.2	2021-08-20	Extension of time request
G/TFA/W/30	2020-10-30	The effective interventions by the department of Customs or Sri Lanka during the Covid-19 outbreak
G/TFA/N/LKA/3	2020-05-08	Article 10.6.2
G/TFA/N/LKA/2/Rev.1	2020-05-08	Article 22.3 - Revision 1
G/TFA/N/LKA/2/Corr.1	2019-09-09	Art. 22.3 - Corrigendum
G/TFA/N/LKA/1/Add.1	2019-08-27	Category C notification - Addendum
G/TFA/N/LKA/2	2019-08-12	Article 22.3
G/TFA/N/LKA/1	2018-02-08	Categories A, B & C notification
WT/PCTF/N/LKA/1	2014-07-31	Category A notification

Experience Sharing

National Trade Facilitation Committee

Date	Title
25 June 2019	Functioning of Sri Lanka's National Trade Facilitation Committee

7.6 - Average release times

Date	Title
11 February 2020	WCO Time Release Study - Sri Lanka's experience (Mr. Sunil Jayarathne)

Technical Assistance detailled information

1.1 Publication

C

1.1.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j)

Indicative date of implementation
30 June 2018

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Expert support to develop an information management system.
• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Completed with the existing funds available in National Budget.

C

1.2.1 (a), (b), (c)
1.2.2
1.2.3

Indicative date of implementation
30 June 2018

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/acts/regulations.
• ICT Infrastructure for internal information management systems, maintaining and upgrading agency website.
• Infrastructure (software) for Trade Information Portal.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Completed with the existing funds available in National Budget.

C

1.3.1
1.3.2
1.3.3
1.3.4

Indicative date of implementation
30 June 2018

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2023

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• ICT infrastructure and technology for maintaining enquiry points.
• Staff capacity building on operating and maintaining enquiry points.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

World Bank provided Need Assessment Report. Provision is Completed.

C

1.4 (a), (b), (c)

Indicative date of implementation
30 June 2018

Definitive date of implementation
10 October 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• For Creation of an electronic single information management platform encompassing Official locations where in which the information has been published, Uniform resource locators of website of the TIP, enquiry points responsible for servicing enquires, enabling expeditious & accurate flow of notifications.

Tags: *Information and communication technologies (ICT)*

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Completed with the existing funds available in National Budget.

C

2.1.1
2.1.2
2.1.3

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
10 October 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Staff capacity building on developing procedures; managing notification and public comment on proposed laws and regulations.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

The Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) has already developed an SOP for this. The next step would be conducting meetings with relevant stakeholders. Funding assistance is expected for conducting stakeholder meetings and capacity-building programs for DAPH officials, including exposure to similar international procedures.

2.2

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
27 August 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Expert support on developing public consultation strategy.
• Staff capacity building on developing consultation strategy/policy, procedures; carrying out consultations.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Completed with the existing funds available in National Budget.

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
31 December 2018

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Equipment/technology for upgrading the laboratory.

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework, Infrastructure and equipment*

Donor Agencies: International Trade Centre, Asian Development Bank, Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility

Progress reported

Sri Lanka Customs has successfully implemented advance rulings with a functioning system that allows traders to request and receive binding classification decisions.
With the support of international partners, including the ITC, ADB and TFAF, Sri Lanka has initiated preparatory work to expand its advance ruling framework.
Provision is Completed.

5.1 Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections

C

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

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2023

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Expert support on the design and establishment of a notification system for enhanced controls or inspections.
• Staff capacity building on implementing a notification system for enhanced controls or inspections.
• ICT Infrastructure for establishing an automated notification system.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Support for capacity building was received from the World Bank. World Bank provided Need Assessment Report.

Provision is Completed.

5.3.1
5.3.2
5.3.3

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
10 October 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Testing kits and other relevant laboratory equipment/materials.
• Support to develop testing parameters and accreditation for veterinary laboratories.
• ICT infrastructure and technology (networking, automation, high-speed internet).

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Provision is Completed.

The WBG has organized two workshops in the years 2023 and 2024 to enhance the capacity building of the officials who are responsible in Test Procedures and Coordinated Risk Management to facilitate trade in Sri Lankan context. The beneficiary government agencies were Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Animal Production and Health, Plant Quarantine Services, Food Control and Administration Unit of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka Standard Institution, and Sri Lankan Airline cargo operations division.

The workshops enhanced the knowledge of the officials of the importance of complying with these measures and the task of suggesting a suitable method in Sri Lankan context is still in progress. The NTFC Secretariat has requested WBG to provide with an online system to implement a proper risk management system in this regard for which a response is still pending from the donor’s end.

Further assistance is needed for the implementation of these guidelines in the following areas:

1. Infrastructure facilities especially for the SPS related agencies to implement these provisions
2. Implementation of a robust risk management system including all the above stakeholders
3. A programme for validating and certifying the relevant requirements
4. A communication plan for stakeholders to ensure comprehensive risk management

C

6.1.1
6.1.2
6.1.3
6.1.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Expert support on reviewing the current fee structure.
• Staff capacity building on periodic review of fees and charges.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

World Bank provided Need Assessment Report. Provision is Completed.

C

6.2 (i), (ii)

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2018

Definitive date of implementation
30 June 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Expert support on reviewing the current fee structure.

Tags: *Diagnostic and Needs Assessment*

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

World Bank provided Need Assessment Report. Provision is Completed.

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
31 December 2018

Definitive date of implementation
27 August 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework*

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Completed with the existing funds available in National Budget. Provision is Completed.

7.4.1
7.4.2
7.4.3
7.4.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2018

Definitive date of implementation
10 October 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Expert support on the design and establishment of a risk management system.
• ICT Infrastructure and technology for an automated risk management system.
• Staff capacity building on implementing the risk management system.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

Provision is Completed.

The WBG has organized two workshops in the years 2023 and 2024 to enhance the capacity building of the officials who are responsible in Test Procedures and Coordinated Risk Management to facilitate trade in Sri Lankan context. The beneficiary government agencies were Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Animal Production and Health, Plant Quarantine Services, Food Control and Administration Unit of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka Standard Institution, and Sri Lankan Airline cargo operations division.

The workshops enhanced the knowledge of the officials of the importance of complying with these measures and the task of suggesting a suitable method in Sri Lankan context is still in progress. The NTFC Secretariat has requested WBG to provide with an online system to implement a proper risk management system in this regard for which a response is still pending from the donor’s end.

Further assistance is needed for the implementation of these guidelines in the following areas:

1. Infrastructure facilities especially for the SPS related agencies to implement these provisions
2. Implementation of a robust risk management system including all the above stakeholders
3. A programme for validating and certifying the relevant requirements
4. A communication plan for stakeholders to ensure comprehensive risk management

C

7.5.1
7.5.2
7.5.3
7.5.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2018

Definitive date of implementation
21 August 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework*

Donor Agencies: Asian Development Bank

Progress reported

System Based Audit training for 64 officers was conducted and SOP was developed with the assistance of ADB. Later, the SOP was introduced to the Customs Department and made a standard procedure by a Departmental Order.

Provision is Completed.

C

7.6.1
7.6.2

Indicative date of implementation
30 June 2018

Definitive date of implementation
15 December 2018

Assistance required for implementation

• Staff capacity building on designing, planning and implementing TRS.

Tags: *Information and communication technologies (ICT)*

Donor Agencies: Asian Development Bank

Progress reported

Earlier TRS was done in 2017 and ADB is currently giving support to carry out the second TRS since mid-2025.

Provision is Completed.

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
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
21 August 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Staff capacity building on design, implementation and review of authorized trader scheme.

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

Donor Agencies: United States Agency for International Development

Progress reported

System Based Audit training for 64 officers was conducted and SOP was developed with the assistance of ADB. Later, the SOP was introduced to the Customs Department and made a standard procedure by a Departmental Order.

Provision is Completed.

C

7.9.1 (a), (b)
7.9.2
7.9.3
7.9.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2024

Assistance required for implementation

• Expert support on developing a coordination mechanism for relevant border agencies on prioritized examination of perishable goods.
• Advance testing facilities and technology.
• Staff capacity building on the use of advanced testing facilities and techniques.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

During 2024 two capacity building were organized in this regard by the World Bank. Provision is Completed.

C

8.1
8.2 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2030

Assistance required for implementation

• Expert support on developing a strategy/framework for border agency cooperation.
• Capacity building support for staff on border agency cooperation.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Looking for Funding Assistance

C

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

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2018

Definitive date of implementation
10 October 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Expert support on developing a system for periodic review of formalities and documentation requirements.
• Capacity building support for responsible staff on conducting periodic reviews.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

The Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) has developed an SOP for this, and a digitalisation project is currently underway. Looking for funding assistance for IT support to ensure its effective operation, to conduct meetings with relevant stakeholders, training programs for DAPH officers, conducted by qualified resource persons, exposure training on similar international procedures would be highly valuable in enhancing DAPH activities and aligning them with global best practices.

C

10.2.1
10.2.2
10.2.3

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2018

Definitive date of implementation
10 October 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Expert support on developing a system for periodic review of formalities and documentation requirements.
• ICT infrastructure & technology (to be covered through NSW).
• Capacity building support to staff on the benefits of electronic documentation and processes.

Tags: *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Legislative and regulatory framework, Infrastructure and equipment, Human resources and training, Awareness-raising*

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

All agencies have completed this commitment. Sri Lanka Customs is currently authorized to process digital soft copies at the Long Room. Originals are requested to verify authenticity when digital signatures are not used. Once the stakeholders submit documents with digital signatures, the commitment can be fully implemented without hard copies. Provision is completed.

C

10.3.1
10.3.2

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
10 October 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Capacity building support to staff on the relevant international standards, testing procedures and international best practices.

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

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Completed with the existing funds available in National Budget.

C

10.4.1
10.4.2
10.4.3
10.4.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2030

Assistance required for implementation

• Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/ acts/regulations.
• Expert support on developing a blueprint for the NSW.
• ICT Infrastructure for automation at each agency.
• ICT infrastructure for the NSW.
• Staff capacity building on implementing the NSW.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Progress reported

The World Bank provided assistance for the preparation of the blue print for National Single Window and Advisory assistance provided for the National Single Window High Level Steering Committee and Project Implementation Committee

• PIU has established and the action plan of the PIU was finalized.
• PIU is the management unit of TNNSW project. The Ministry of Finance is working in collaboration with development partners such as the World Bank and ADB, as well as technical partners including UNCTAD, to mobilize the necessary funds and technical assistance for the project.

Further assistance will be required for the acquisition of technological equipment to support the work of customs-related bodies and Other Government Agencies (OGAs) as well.

C

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
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
10 October 2025

Assistance required for implementation

• Expert support on developing a voluntary compliance regime.

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework*

Donor Agencies: to be determined

Progress reported

Provision is Completed.

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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