WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TFAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

Uganda

Ratified Agreement: Yes

Ratification Date: 2018-06-27

Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C)	Due date	Status
Notified all category ABC designations	by 22 February 2018	Yes
A - 8.4% B - 47.9% C - 43.7% **Not yet notified** - 0.0%		
Notified indicative dates in Category B	by 22 February 2018	Yes
Notified definitive dates in Category B	Extension agreed until 31 December 2023	Yes
Notified indicative dates in Category C	by 22 February 2021	Yes
Notified definitive dates in Category C	Extension agreed until 31 December 2023	Yes
Notified Technical Assistance requirements	by 22 February 2019	Yes
Notified arrangements on the provision of technical assistance support	by 22 February 2021	Yes
Notified progress in the provision of technical assistance support	by 22 August 2022	Yes

Transparency notifications			
Notified Art. 1.4	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2018	Yes
Notified Art. 10.4.3	Category C	Definitive implementation date 1 July 2025	Yes
Notified Art. 10.6.2	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2018	Yes
Notified Art. 12.2	Category B	Definitive implementation date 1 July 2023	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 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
1.2	Information available through internet	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
1.3	Enquiry points	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2025
1.4	Notification	A		by 22 February 2018
2.1	Comments and information before entry into force	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
2.2	Consultations	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
3	Advance rulings	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
4	Procedures for appeal or review	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
5.1	Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
5.2	Detention	A		by 22 February 2018
5.3	Test procedures	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
6.1	General disciplines on fees and charges	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
6.2	Specific disciplines on fees and charges	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
6.3	Penalty Disciplines	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
7.1	Pre-arrival processing	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2026
7.2	Electronic payment	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
7.3	Separation of release	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
7.4	Risk management	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2026
7.5	Post-clearance audit	A		by 22 February 2018
7.6	Average release times	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
7.7	Authorized operators	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
7.8	Expedited shipments	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
7.9	Perishable goods	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2026
8	Border Agency Cooperation	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2026
9	Movement of goods	A		by 22 February 2018
10.1	Formalities	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
10.2	Acceptance of copies	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
10.3	Use of international standards	B	by 01 July 2020	by 01 July 2023
10.4	Single window	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2025
10.5	Preshipment inspection	A		by 22 February 2018
10.6	Use of customs brokers	A		by 22 February 2018
10.7	Common border procedures	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
10.8	Rejected Goods	A		by 22 February 2018
10.9	Temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing	A		by 22 February 2018

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
11	Transit	C	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2024
12	Customs cooperation	B C»B	by 01 July 2024	by 01 July 2023

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/UGA/1/Add.2	2024-06-12	Category C notification and shifting of categories
G/TFA/N/UGA/3	2024-06-12	Article 22.3
G/TFA/N/UGA/4	2024-06-12	Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance
G/TFA/N/UGA/2	2024-03-19	Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2
G/TFA/W/92	2023-07-05	The role of technology transfer in building resilience: Trade Facilitation
G/TFA/N/UGA/1/Add.1	2022-08-19	Extension of time to notify Category C definitive dates
G/TFA/N/UGA/1	2020-01-15	Categories A, B and C notification
WT/PCTF/N/UGA/1	2015-08-07	Category A notification

1.2 Information available through internet

C

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

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Creation of a comprehensive trade information portal with advanced ICT infrastructure.
2. Documentation under the national trade portal/financial support for translation.
3. Review, develop and establish information management systems where they do not exist in other trade facilitating entities.
4. Review and develop appropriate statutory instruments necessary for the simplification of the TF initiatives and measures.
5. Purchase and install the required modern equipment and infrastructure.
6. Review and strengthen rules and regulations to support efficient management of trade information systems.
7. Develop and operationalize rules and guidelines for publishing information via internet taking into consideration the interests of the different stakeholders.
8. Develop and implement change management strategy in the different organisations/Training and sensitization of all stakeholders.

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

Donor Agencies: TradeMark Africa, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, International Trade Centre, Swisscontact

Progress reported

TMEA financed the establishment of a One Stop Shop for Trade Information Repository (Uganda Trade Information Portal) while UNCTAD provided infrastructure and technical assistance to document 55 products (43 exports/12 imports), 348 procedures, Transit -11, 72 Institutions, 39 legal documents and 227 forms for export and import.
ITC supported a few private sector engagements on coffee and cocoa export documents under the EU-EAC-Mark Up project Phase one. Swiss-Contact provided support for capturing data and information on fruits and vegetables sector which was uploaded on the Portal.

Impact: Real time trade information on the Portal, reduced cost and time to search for information, feedback on complaints by users addressed. Five EAC Partner States run similar Trade Information Portals and easily accessible to investors and global exporters. So far 36 of 49 procedures are under simplification, 6 steps eliminated, 29 steps digitalized and 21 documents have been eliminated, 11 hours saved.

Beneficiaries: The General Public, Traders, International business community etc.

Funding Gap: Documentation of other key Products and Services; Funding the communication strategy, Simplification of procedures through the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and funding a Secretariat of NTFC to follow up on implementation of the agreement and business community inquiries; automation of different Public digital systems. Sustainability of Trade Information Portal; Change Management of human resources and institutions; Capacity building for the business community and the general public.

1.3 Enquiry points

1.3.1
1.3.2
1.3.3
1.3.4

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2025

Assistance required for implementation

1. Assessment of existing enquiry points, technology used, etc.
2. Establish a national enquiry and call centre to ensure that MTIC coordinates all the other institutions in this activity.
3. Purchase necessary equipment and train personnel.
4. Fund the national enquiry point.
5. Strengthen SPS and TBT Committees.

Tags: *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Human resources and training*

Donor Agencies: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Progress reported

In 2022, UNCTAD supported a consultant to coordinate efforts of the National Trade Facilitation Committee Secretariat for a period of 6 months and also developed the Reform Tracker Portal for Uganda, an online facility to track Uganda's implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement and activities of the NTFCs and the simplification work.

Progress made: Development of technical papers for the technical working groups under the NTFC Committee and capacity building of the UNCTAD reform Tracker.

Funding Gap: The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC) is the national enquiry point that coordinates all other sectional enquiry points in the country and is also responsible for all trade related notifications under WTO. So, support to provide a robust work in this role and also maintaining a dedicated Secretariat is needed. The meagre funding at the Ministry inhibits the institution from coordinating the trade facilitation initiatives at the national, regional and multilateral levels in an efficient manner.

5.1 Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections

C

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

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Develop and implement a project on standard operating procedures on import and rapid alert and border agency coordination.
2. Equip and establish infrastructure to detect food hazards, including early warning systems.
3. Develop and monitor implementation of a risk management strategy.
4. Administrative guidelines and standard operating procedures that will manage risks coming from the implementation of the national SPS framework.
5. Train Staff and stakeholders.

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

5.3 Test procedures

C

5.3.1
5.3.2
5.3.3

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Laboratories at entry/exist points to undertake testing.
2. Upgrading of existing laboratories with relevant infrastructures.
3. Training of the Laboratories staff on the use of international best practices.

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

7.1 Pre-arrival processing

C

7.1.1
7.1.2

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2026

Assistance required for implementation

1. Development of the ICT infrastructure for the border agencies and acquisition of equipment.
2. Establishment of logistics centres at all the borders to provide that service.

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

7.2 Electronic payment

C

7.2

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Sensitization of stakeholders.
2. Develop and roll out relevant IT infrastructure and equipment.
3. Procure and deploy affordable and reliable internet interconnectivity.
4. Develop and implement training, sensitization and awareness programme.
5. Develop and implement change management programme.
6. Review and strengthen the legal framework to provide secure electronic payments.
7. Develop and implement a framework (including procedures, standards and regulations) to support the rolling out of e-payments.
8. Develop and expedite the implementation of the e-payment gateway.

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

7.4 Risk management

C

7.4.1
7.4.2
7.4.3
7.4.4

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2026

Assistance required for implementation

1. Review of the profiling mechanism and procedures in the customs and in other government agencies.
2. Training and capacity build border agencies on risk management.
3. Establish an ICT infrastructure to support national risk management framework.
4. Develop multi-agency risk management framework.

Tags: *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Institutional procedures, Human resources and training*

7.6 Average release times

C

7.6.1
7.6.2

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Undertake national and EAC time Release studies.
2. Develop and implement a programme for training border and transit corridor personnel.
3. Develop and implement a framework for procuring professional firms to carry out periodic time release studies.
4. Launch and monitor the carrying out of the periodic national and EAC time release studies and benchmark them against previous study results and the international best practices.
5. Identify performance gaps and propose measures to address them.
6. Develop and implement a coordination mechanism for improving border and transit operations and release times.
7. Develop, identify and agree the maximum target time release standards.
8. Train personnel.
9. Establish a coordination mechanism.

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

7.7 Authorized operators

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
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Sensitization of the private stakeholders.
2. Change management.
3. Develop a National mechanism for coordination and cooperation between Customs and other border agencies.

Tags: *Institutional procedures, Awareness-raising*

7.8 Expedited shipments

C

7.8.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h)
7.8.2 (a), (b), (c), (d)
7.8.3

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Establish a legal regime, regulations and procedures.
2. Review of procedures in other agencies.
3. Amend the SPS Protocol.

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

7.9 Perishable goods

C

7.9.1 (a), (b)
7.9.2
7.9.3
7.9.4

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2026

Assistance required for implementation

1. Establishment of laboratories and acquisition of equipment to undertake testing for all perishable goods at all the customs zones.
2. Train staff on handling perishable goods.
3. Develop or review of relevant laws and undertake necessary reforms.

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

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

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2026

Assistance required for implementation

1. Review existing cooperation mechanisms both within Uganda and across borders.
2. Training (Coordinated Border Management).
3. Fund the border agencies.

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

Donor Members: European Union

Donor Agencies: TradeMark Africa, World Bank

Progress reported

TMEA and European union supported construction of One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) while World Bank provided a credit facility for the construction of some Border Markets. The development support has led to the Construction of five border export zones at Busia, Katuna, Lwakhakha, Mpondwe and Oraba and renovation of the OSPB at Bunagana.

Impact: Coordinated Border Management; Cross Border Trade Association and Trade Information Desks infrastructures strengthened; NTBs Monitoring Committees established. Support for the simplified trade regime and amplifying or formalizing of cross border traders who are majorly women, youth and small and medium enterprises.

Funding Gap: Outstanding construction of OSBPs at Bunagana, and Lwakhakha; Harmonization of working hours with all border agencies (URA, MAAIF, Immigration, UNBS, NDA, and DDA), funding coordination efforts; ICT Infrastructure. Harmonization beyond Uganda borders with other institutions from EAC Partner States. Sustainability of outstanding works, automation of cross border agencies, trade negotiations missions and private sector business engagements. Funding Joint border committees, Capacitating trade information desks and data collection of cross-border flows.

10.1 Formalities

C

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

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. A review of existing formalities be comprehensively carried out in relevant TF Agencies with a view of simplifying trade documents.
2. Harmonize national procedures at the border points with those of the bordering countries.
3. Simplify and standardize trade documents and making them easily available.
4. undertake legislative and regulatory review on procedures and documentation requirements.
5. Carry out stakeholders' sensitization on the revised procedures.

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

10.2 Acceptance of copies

C

10.2.1
10.2.2
10.2.3

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Examine what happens in the other agencies and amend the law where necessary.

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

10.4 Single window

C

10.4.1
10.4.2
10.4.3
10.4.4

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2025

Assistance required for implementation

1. ICT Infrastructure.
2. Institutional capacity development
3. Training of personnel and sensitization.

Tags: *Information and communication technologies (ICT), Infrastructure and equipment, Institutional procedures, Human resources and training, Awareness-raising*

Donor Agencies: TradeMark Africa, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Progress reported

TMEA was the funding arm while UNCTAD was the implementing agency which provided the e-Single Window system that integrated other public and private institutions beyond Uganda Revenue Authority and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. The Government of Uganda is currently sustaining some efforts to keep the initiative ongoing.

Achievements to date: Customs clearance time reduced; required documents to process clearance reduced; Private Sector secured licenses of export permits, Reduction in human interface; goods cleared in record time; curb on corruption; electronic access to permits and certificates; licensing clearing agents online; transit certificates digitalized; interfaces with commercial banks; online bids for auctions easily accessible; etc. Funding Gap: The target is to have 45 agencies on the e-Single Window. So far 22 are actively operational on the system. ICT application interface for permits, certificates is needed; Online Advance ruling to be fully automated, online accreditation of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs), Commodity agency application, Funding communication Strategy, electronic payments. Investment in servers and Source code funding.

10.7 Common border procedures

C

10.7.1
10.7.2 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Review of existing border/ administrative procedures with a view of simplifying documentation.
2. Training of experts and other stakeholders.

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

11 Transit

C

11.1 (a), (b)
11.2
11.3
11.4
11.5
11.6 (a), (b)
11.7
11.8
11.9
11.10
11.11
11.12
11.13
11.14
11.15
11.16 (a), (b), (c)
11.17

Indicative date of implementation
1 July 2024

Definitive date of implementation
1 July 2024

Assistance required for implementation

1. Review and harmonize axle load limits across the EAC region.
2. Review and harmonize compensation requirements under the COMESA Yellow Card (regional approach – Insurance).
3. Review difference in implementation of Yellow Card policy in Kenya and Uganda.
4. Sensitization

Tags: *Legislative and regulatory framework, Diagnostic and Needs Assessment, Awareness-raising*

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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