WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TFAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

# Rwanda

**Ratified Agreement:** Yes

**Ratification Date:** 2017-02-22

| Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C) | | | Due date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Notified all category ABC designations | | | by 22 February 2018 | Yes |
| A - 26.9% | B - 65.1% | C - 8.0% | **Not yet notified** - 0.0% | |
| Notified indicative dates in Category B | | | by 22 February 2018 | Yes |
| Notified definitive dates in Category B | | | by 22 February 2020 | Yes |
| Notified indicative dates in Category C | | | by 22 February 2021 | Yes |
| Notified definitive dates in Category C | | | by 22 August 2022 | 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 B | Definitive implementation date 31 March 2021 | Yes |
| Notified Art. 10.6.2 | Category C | Definitive implementation date 31 August 2030 | No |
| Notified Art. 12.2 | Category B | Definitive implementation date 31 March 2021 | 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 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 1.2 | Information available through internet | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 1.3 | Enquiry points | C | by 31 August 2024 | by 31 August 2026 |
| 1.4 | Notification | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 2.1 | Comments and information before entry into force | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 2.2 | Consultations | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 3 | Advance rulings | B C»B | by 31 March 2021 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 4 | Procedures for appeal or review | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 5.1 | Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections | B C»B | by 26 March 2021 | by 26 March 2021 |
| 5.2 | Detention | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 5.3 | Test procedures | C | by 31 August 2024 | by 31 August 2026 |
| 6.1 | General disciplines on fees and charges | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 6.2 | Specific disciplines on fees and charges | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 6.3 | Penalty Disciplines | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.1 | Pre-arrival processing | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 7.2 | Electronic payment | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 7.3 | Separation of release | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 7.4 | Risk management | Ap Cp | from 22 February 2018 to 31 August 2024 | from 22 February 2018 to 31 August 2030 |
| 7.5 | Post-clearance audit | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 7.6 | Average release times | C B»C E | by 31 August 2024 | by 31 August 2029 |
| 7.7 | Authorized operators | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 7.8 | Expedited shipments | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 7.9 | Perishable goods | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 8 | Border Agency Cooperation | C | by 31 August 2024 | by 31 August 2030 |
| 9 | Movement of goods | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.1 | Formalities | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 10.2 | Acceptance of copies | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.3 | Use of international standards | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |

| Implementation schedule | | | Indicative implementation date | Definitive implementation date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10.4 | Single window | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 10.5 | Preshipment inspection | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.6 | Use of customs brokers | C | by 31 August 2024 | by 31 August 2030 |
| 10.7 | Common border procedures | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.8 | Rejected Goods | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 10.9 | Temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |
| 11 | Transit | A | | by 22 February 2018 |
| 12 | Customs cooperation | B | by 31 March 2020 | by 31 March 2021 |

**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/RWA/5 | 2026-05-08 | Extension of implementation dates |

| Symbol | Date | Description |
|---|---|---|
| G/TFA/W/124 | 2025-12-11 | Provision on the national transit coordinator - Communication from Rwanda |
| G/TFA/W/92 | 2023-07-05 | The role of technology transfer in building resilience: Trade Facilitation |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/1/Add.4 | 2022-08-22 | Category C notification and shifting of categories |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/4/Rev.1 | 2022-08-22 | Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance - Revision |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/1/Add.3 | 2021-07-14 | Categories B and C notification - Shifting of categories |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/4 | 2021-07-14 | Arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/2 | 2021-04-27 | Article 22.3 |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/3 | 2021-04-27 | Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 12.2.2 |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/1/Add.2 | 2020-04-30 | Category C notification - Addendum 2 |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/1/Add.1 | 2020-02-19 | Category B notification |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/1/Corr.1 | 2018-07-05 | Categories A, B and C notification - Corrigendum (in English only) |
| G/TFA/N/RWA/1 | 2018-06-04 | Categories A, B and C notification |
| WT/PCTF/N/RWA/1 | 2015-04-27 | Category A notification |

## Experience Sharing

**10.4 - Single window**

| Date | Title |
|---|---|
| 15 October 2019 - 16 October 2019 | UNCTAD Compendium of Good Practices (UNCTAD and Rwanda) |

## 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**
31 August 2024

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 August 2026

### Assistance required for implementation

- Develop a Legal Framework for establishment of a One Stop Centre Enquiry Point
- Develop an Operations Manual for the One Stop Centre Enquiry Point
- Harmonize procedures from different enquiry points for running the One Stop Centre Enquiry Point
- Establishment and Operationalization of a One Stop Centre Enquiry Point
- Awareness (sensitization workshops, media talks, etc)
- Training of National Enquiry Points & NTFC subcommittees

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

**Donor Agencies:** TradeMark Africa

### Progress reported

TradeMark East Africa (partial support)

A One Stop Centre Enquiry Point has been established under the auspices of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and operates as a centralized body/secretariat that transmits requests, compiles replies and sends them back to the requesting parties, through the Trade Portal live chat or per email. The Trade Portal live chat is a point of entry for enquiries on the homepage which go directly to the One Stop Centre Enquiry Point email.

The coordination and communication mechanism of the One Stop Centre Enquiry Point were established together with Enquiry Points focal persons nominated from private and public institutions involved in international trade. However, there is still a challenge for establishing a dedicated national enquiry point office. The office will coordinate all the activities of the other enquiry points across the country and be responsible for all trade related notifications, including managing WTO notifications.

**Donor Agencies:** United States Agency for International Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, TradeMark Africa

## Progress reported

A One Stop Centre Enquiry Point has been established under the auspices of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and operates as a centralized body/secretariat that transmits requests, compiles replies and sends them back to the requesting parties, through the Trade Portal live chat or per email. The Trade Portal live chat is a point of entry for enquiries on the homepage which go directly to the One Stop Centre Enquiry Point email.

To ensure operationalization of One Stop Centre Enquiry Point that was established, Rwanda held discussion with USAID Rwanda on trade facilitation space to inform USAID Economic Growth future programming on 20 January 2022 where Rwanda presented needs and gaps in enquiry point implementation.

In addition, Rwanda presented to the UNCTAD the pending activities of C category implementation that requires Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation and have not been able to sustain support so far.

C

5.3.1
5.3.2
5.3.3

**Indicative date of implementation**
31 August 2024

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 August 2026

## Assistance required for implementation

- Design Formal Operational Guidelines and Legal Framework for conducting/undertaking the Second Test
- Build Staff Capacity with Appropriate Skills (public and private sectors) on use of second tests
- Develop and interlink Laboratory Information Management Systems to all laboratories identified for testing
- Conduct a Gaps Assessment of the capacity of existing private laboratories for their accreditation to enable them to provide the 2nd test required under the TFA
- Support in peer assessment and regional proficiency testing for 3 years
- Support to the proficiency testing (PT) schemes at regional level

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

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

**Donor Agencies:** TradeMark Africa, United States Agency for International Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

## Progress reported

The findings of the confirmatory test are valid and accepted.

The contact information of any laboratory where the second test can be done are published and findings of the confirmatory test are considered for the release and clearance goods. Capacity building to traders and laboratories was conducted however a lot is needed to be done.

USAID currently finance Rwanda on Machine testing and other discussion were held to ensure support to the remaining activities.

TMEA supported Rwanda to create the Laboratory information Management Systems (LIMs), that helped for digitization of testing results, both online reporting system and certificate delivery. This helped external Clients and staff in laboratories to save time for other businesses. It saved cost of printing certificate and the protection of environment.

In addition, Rwanda presented to the UNCTAD the pending activities of C category implementation that requires Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation. Rwanda have not been able to sustain support so far.

7.4.3

**Indicative date of implementation**
31 August 2024

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 August 2030

## Assistance required for implementation

- Risk Management System interface for agencies involved in export, import and transit (integrated risk management-through the eSW)
- Build capacity for Staff of concerned Government institutions and Risk Management Committee
- Procure laboratory equipment for various tests and other inspection tools
- Establish and Operationalise the Risk Management Committee
- Awareness of traders on Risk Management

**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

A Joint Risk Management Committee composed of key stakeholders involved in risk management for clearance of goods has been established and operationalized with clear Terms of Reference (ToRs). Training needs have been identified, a workplan developed and the committee is developing a Risk Register.

**Donor Agencies:** TradeMark Africa

## Progress reported

A Joint Risk Management Committee (JRMC) composed of key stakeholders involved in risk management for clearance of goods (import, export and Transit) has been established and operationalized with clear Terms of Reference (ToRs).

Training needs have been identified, a workplan developed and the committee update at a monthly basis the Risk Register. The donor TMEA was presented with the workplan and need to support implementation of the JRMC activities.

## 7.6 Average release times

C

7.6.1
7.6.2

**Indicative date of implementation**
31 August 2024

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 August 2029

### Assistance required for implementation

Rwanda is submitting the notification to shift from category B to category C in order to obtain financial and technical assistance and capacity building support to carry out Time Release Studies.

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

Shift from Cat. B to Cat. C notification.

**Donor Agencies:** International Trade Centre, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

### Progress reported

Rwanda has conducted three consecutive Time Release Studies (TRS) in 2007, 2010 and 2014. Rwanda presented the need for Time release study to ITC to be financed under European Union MARK UP project phase II.

In addition, Rwanda presented to the UNCTAD the pending activities of C category implementation that requires Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation.

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

**Indicative date of implementation**
31 August 2024

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 August 2030

## Assistance required for implementation

- Enhance coordinated border management by harmonizing procedures and formalities (extension of border working hours, harmonization of working hours, joint inspections, etc)
- Improve Operationalization of Joint Border Committees
- Continue with work on One Stop Border Posts and required equipment such as e-gates, IT facilities, etc
- Conduct Training, Sensitization, and Workshops of Stakeholders

**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

**Donor Members:** European Union

**Donor Agencies:** World Bank, TradeMark Africa

## Progress reported

Four 1 stop border posts (Kagitumba, Rusumo, La Cornishe and Gatuna) were completed. The operationalization of joint border committees is going well. European Union, World Bank and TMEA have been providing infrastructure support.

However, a lot needs to be done in terms of enhancing coordinated border management by harmonizing procedures and formalities, improve Operationalization of Joint Border Committees, procuring equipment such as e-gates, luggage scanners, IT facilities, etc and joint awareness with neighbouring countries.

C

10.6.1
10.6.2
10.6.3

**Indicative date of implementation**
31 August 2024

**Definitive date of implementation**
31 August 2030

## Assistance required for implementation

- Review and publish the licensing requirements
- Consider a careful interpretation of article 145 of EAC CMA 2004 and amend it to cater for TF provision and requirement
- To review the legal base to allow importers to clear goods without the use of clearing agents
- Capacity building for importers & exporters
- Establish a review team led by the RRA, but encompassing representatives from the Broker community and interested members of the import/export community to commence the process

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

**Donor Agencies:** to be determined

## Progress reported

**Donor Agencies:** United States Agency for International Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

## Progress reported

The licensing procedure in Rwanda is non-discriminatory, it has transparent procedures which follow in line with art 149 EAC Customs management regulation 2010.

Article 145 of the East African Customs Management Act in the Customs law however there are exceptional situations determined in terms of the Customs. Value of less than 2,000 USD which is allowed to be cleared from Customs without using a Customs broker (small consignments). With this exception, a simplified Customs declaration is generated by Customs officers in the system and payment is made either by cash or bank.

To ensure use of customs brokers, Rwanda held discussion with USAID and UNCTAD on needs of customs brokers. Rwanda have not been able to sustain support so far.

**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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