WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TFAD Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

Vanuatu

Ratified Agreement: Yes

Ratification Date: 2020-05-06

Implementation Notifications (Categories A, B, C)			Due date	Status
Notified all category ABC designations			by 22 February 2017	Yes
A - 65.5%	B - 21.0%	C - 13.4%	**Not yet notified** - 0.0%	
Notified indicative dates in Category B			by 22 February 2017	Yes
Notified definitive dates in Category B			by 22 February 2018	Yes
Notified indicative dates in Category C			by 22 February 2017	Yes
Notified definitive dates in Category C			by 22 August 2019	Yes
Notified Technical Assistance requirements			by 22 February 2017	Yes
Notified arrangements on the provision of technical assistance support			by 22 February 2018	Yes
Notified progress in the provision of technical assistance support			by 22 August 2019	Yes

Transparency notifications			
Notified Art. 1.4	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2017	Yes
Notified Art. 10.4.3	Category C	Definitive implementation date 31 December 2023	Yes
Notified Art. 10.6.2	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2017	Yes
Notified Art. 12.2	Category A	Definitive implementation date 22 February 2017	Yes

Information on Assistance and Capacity Building

Notified Art. 22.3	Yes

Legend: Yes Notification presented | No Notification due | No Notification not yet due

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
1.1	Publication	B C»B	by 31 December 2019	by 31 December 2020
1.2	Information available through internet	B C»B	by 31 December 2019	by 31 December 2020
1.3	Enquiry points	B C»B	by 31 December 2019	by 31 December 2020
1.4	Notification	A		by 22 February 2017
2.1	Comments and information before entry into force	A		by 22 February 2017
2.2	Consultations	A		by 22 February 2017
3	Advance rulings	A		by 22 February 2017
4	Procedures for appeal or review	A		by 22 February 2017
5.1	Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	B	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2020
5.2	Detention	B C»B	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2025
5.3	Test procedures	C	by 31 December 2021	by 31 December 2030
6.1	General disciplines on fees and charges	B	by 31 December 2018	by 31 December 2021
6.2	Specific disciplines on fees and charges	A		by 22 February 2017
6.3	Penalty Disciplines	A		by 22 February 2017

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
7.1	Pre-arrival processing	A		by 22 February 2017
7.2	Electronic payment	B	by 31 December 2019	by 31 December 2021
7.3	Separation of release	A		by 22 February 2017
7.4	Risk management	C	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2030
7.5	Post-clearance audit	A		by 22 February 2017
7.6	Average release times	C	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2023
7.7	Authorized operators	C	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2025
7.8	Expedited shipments	A		by 22 February 2017
7.9	Perishable goods	A		by 22 February 2017
8	Border Agency Cooperation	A		by 22 February 2017
9	Movement of goods	A		by 22 February 2017
10.1	Formalities	A		by 22 February 2017
10.2	Acceptance of copies	A		by 22 February 2017
10.3	Use of international standards	C	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2022

Implementation schedule			Indicative implementation date	Definitive implementation date
10.4	Single window	C	by 31 December 2020	by 31 December 2023
10.5	Preshipment inspection	A		by 22 February 2017
10.6	Use of customs brokers	A		by 22 February 2017
10.7	Common border procedures	A		by 22 February 2017
10.8	Rejected Goods	A		by 22 February 2017
10.9	Temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing	A		by 22 February 2017
11	Transit	B	by 31 December 2022	by 31 December 2022
12	Customs cooperation	A		by 22 February 2017

Legend

A	Notified in Cat. A	Ap	Partially notified in A		
B	Notified in Cat. B	Bp	Partially notified in B	C»B	Shift from C to B
C	Notified in Cat. C	Cp	Partially notified in C	B»C	Shift from B to C
N	Not yet notified	E	Extension of time requested		

Notifications and other documents

Symbol	Date	Description
G/TFA/N/VUT/5	2025-08-01	Article 10.4.3

Symbol	Date	Description
G/TFA/N/VUT/6	2025-08-01	Article 22.3
G/TFA/N/VUT/4	2025-02-25	Donor arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance
G/TFA/N/VUT/3	2023-10-26	Articles 10.6.2 and 12.2.2
G/TFA/N/VUT/2/Rev.1	2020-09-15	Article 1.4 - Revision
G/TFA/N/VUT/2	2020-03-02	Article 1.4
G/TFA/N/VUT/1/Add.1	2020-02-20	Categories A, B and C notification - Addendum
G/TFA/N/VUT/1	2018-01-10	Categories A, B and C notification

Experience Sharing

10.4 - Single window

Date	Title
22 June 2021 - 23 June 2021	Vanuatu's experience with implementation of customs automation and single window ASYCUDA program presentation

5.3 Test procedures

C

5.3.1
5.3.2
5.3.3

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2021

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2030

Assistance required for implementation

Legal/Policy: Improve/Develop relevant regulations and policies to guide the Vanuatu Bureau of Standards VBS Laboratory and Biosecurity Vanuatu (BV)
Develop/improve regulations on the process/ procedures of traded goods in question that need further testing and or verification.
Capacity Building: Appropriate Capacity building for testing requirements for all border agencies
Facility/Infrastructure/Equipment: Assist with the accreditation of VBS Laboratory to carry out secondary testing.
Proper equipment needed to carry out secondary testing.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

This is a transparency measure and needs a policy response. Each border regulatory agency has its own policy framework for second testing, but procedures are not standardized or widely published.

There is progress on the Vanuatu Bureau of Standards, and the government lab is currently being fully equipped (with assistance from the International Atomic Agency which provided the equipment) and protocols for tests are currently being created. Currently there is no information or protocols in place to what is required for testing (i.e., for textiles).

The government laboratory is currently on track to become accredited to ISO 17025 by the end of 2025.

The Vanuatu Bureau of Standards plans to launch a communications policy, which includes testing etc, strategies based on policies and regulations. There is a lack of communications among each other, and even though upgrades are currently taking place, they are not communicated and there is a need for a public campaign to bring awareness to the private sector that the government lab is able to do that (even though currently second testing is not being used very often, due to perishables)

At a regional level, Vanuatu is a key participant in the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative (PQII) that is managed by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS). This initiative is assessing laboratory capacity and future needs on a regional basis.

Areas of assistance required:

Vanuatu needs support to develop a multi-agency policy framework that provides for the possibility of second testing, where appropriate, the development of a Standard Operating Procedures and to also ensure that the business community is well informed of the availability of second testing procedures.

World Bank Group will be assisting with the supporting the Test Procedures Working group under the TFSC to review the existing legal/policy instruments for alignment with the TFA test procedures article and SOPs to support 2nd testing.

Vanuatu requires assistance to develop the following 2nd testing requirements:
• Laboratory training and capacity development requirements.
• Equipment and infrastructure to for laboratories to facilitate priority border testing needs.
• 2nd testing Implementation strategy (including processes and timing).
• Implementation of policy and standard operating procedures when legislation is approved.
• Potential automation and laboratory sample tracking.
• Stakeholder consultancy and awareness on secondary tests.

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7.4.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2030

Assistance required for implementation

Legal/Policy: Assistance to develop and establish mechanism to ensure enhanced coordination and collaboration between border agencies on risk identification and application of risk management.
Procedures: Risk management system procedures are needed to be developed.
Human Resources/Training: training provided to border agencies in implementing risk management system.
Infrastructure/Equipment: assistance to have relevant technology such as x-ray machines, scanners, laboratory testing facilities in order to implement a proper risk management system.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

The implementation of the VNSW has expanded the use of the ASYCUDA World risk management for Customs and technical control agencies by enabling selectivity criteria to be used to identify risk goods.

The technical control agencies, including Biosecurity Vanuatu, Environment, Ministry of Health and others, need to be included into a framework for an integrated approach to risk management. Vanuatu Bureau of Standards are not represented at the port and the Customs selectivity committee needs to include standards for risk-based approach for regulated goods.

The World Bank Group facilitated the Border Risk Management and Digital Information workshop in New Zealand, from 2-6 December 2019, where Pacific where Biosecurity and Customs representatives from five Pacific Island countries were provided briefings, demonstrations and initial training on Risk Compliance and developing a risk management and targeting regime.

The World Bank Group is assisting Vanuatu border agencies to analyse current capabilities to implement an effective integrated risk management system based on a common methodology and to develop overall agency risk management framework. This included promoting a regional approach to managing risk and initial regional planning was undertaken in Sydney in December 2022.

Areas of assistance required:

• Vanuatu requires assistance to develop risk management and risk reporting strategies for all regulatory border agencies and an effective risk-based targeting system based on a review and update of current risk management processes and procedures for risk goods and risk traders to optimise border outcomes and enhance data-informed risk-based decision making.
• Vanuatu requires assistance to deliver training of officials from all border agencies to enable them to participate in an integrated risk-based approach, which includes assistance with a TOR for a joint selectivity committee. This may include development of joint targeting approach for all border related profiling and vessel/packaging and commodity screening.

C

7.6.1
7.6.2

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2023

Assistance required for implementation

Procedures: Publication of average release time is yet to be implemented. Need assistance to implement the controls and procedures to meet the FTA requirements to regularly measure the publish average release times.
Human Resource Training: Needs more assistance on training and capacity building
ICT/Equipment: Further assistance on ICT to link the system to the time release for regular monitoring.

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

Donor Agencies: World Bank, World Customs Organization

Progress reported

The Import TRS 2023 report was finalized and launched in 2024.

The World Bank Group provided training and support to the members of the Trade Facilitation Steering Committee (TFSC) Working Group to utilize the WCO Time Release Study Tool and to identify key 'testing points' in the clearance for preparation of a TRS survey. The TRS Working Group developed an initial survey and conducted the TRS.

Areas of assistance required:

• It is anticipated that at the completion of the TRS analysis that Vanuatu will require assistance in the next few years and aims to be self-sufficient for future TRS by 2026.

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
31 December 2025

Assistance required for implementation

Legal/Policy: Assistance required to develop a legal framework for AO.
Procedures: Assistance required to implement procedures and controls in place to manage the AO in compliant with the relevant laws within DCIR and other Boarder agencies.
Human Resource/Training: Training and capacity building is required for Customs & Inland Revenue and all other border agencies to enforce compliance.

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

Donor Members: Australia

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

The provision for Authorized Operators (AO) is outlined in the Customs Legislation.

The Australian Border Force (ABF) is undertaking traders' compliance and sharing of experiences on trader compliance program (related to AEO). Customs is sending a official to attend 1 month's skills training at the WCO Headquarters (Brussels) on Authorised Economic Operator and the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards.

Areas of Assistance required:

• Vanuatu requires assistance with undertaking a gap analysis of the legislative framework, policy documents and SOPs for imports and exports.
• Vanuatu requires assistance to expand the AO from Customs to Biosecurity Vanuatu.
• Vanuatu is investigating future regional AO relationships within the Pacific and may require assistance as this concept is being developed.

C

10.3.1
10.3.2

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2022

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2022

Assistance required for implementation

Human Resource/Training
Need Capacity building to understand the use of international standards

Tags: *Human resources and training*

Donor Agencies: World Bank

Progress reported

There is a number of international standards, including TFA, RKC, TBT, SPS, UNECE, ISO, IPPC, WOAH, Codex which are being used in Vanuatu. The SAD includes a common set of fields based on the WCO Data Model, as well as on the UNECE Data model (mostly for Biosecurity fields and the private sector).

Areas of assistance required:

Vanuatu requires assistance to:
• Undertake a capacity building workshop to take stock of all international standards and agree which international standards should be used, with a focus on achieving full alignment to international standards, including taking stock on what is being used in other PICs.
• Undertake capacity building to develop capability to incorporate and use international standards in standard setting and frontline decision making.

C

10.4.1
10.4.2
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10.4.4

Indicative date of implementation
31 December 2020

Definitive date of implementation
31 December 2023

Assistance required for implementation

Legal/Policy: All the policy mandate and legal requirements for a Vanuatu Electronic Single Window System have been identified in the prior and during the current phase of the Project.
Procedures: Implement the recommendations of the Inspection Report. Needed detailed documentation to be prepared during the course of the second phase of the Project.
Human Resource/Training: Technical Capacity Building trading should continue to be delivered to Boarder Agencies, Customs officials and Business users.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
Funding is required to fund the development of the identified modules and requirements in the second phase of the Project.
Infrastructure/Equipment: The Vanuatu Electronic Single Window system is being housed in the Government's state of the art ICT infrastructure. Funds will only be required to boost additional resources since the base is already taken care of.

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

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

Progress reported

Following a VNSW Gap Analysis assessment undertaken by the World Bank Group as a benchmark against international best practices provided by the UNECE recommendation 33 on NSW which found an implementation alignment rate of 75% and the report recommendations provided, few recommendations were already picked by the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue (DCIR) to be implemented and funded by the government of Vanuatu under Phase III of the single window project. These are also prior actions for a new WBG DPO. These included: 1) At least 3 additional Departments involved in regulating trade and businesses are integrated with the single window clearance system 2) Enable businesses to submit and pay for import and export certificates, licenses and permits online and 3) Be able to issue certificates of origin online. In addition, the rules of origin module was activated.

UNCTAD had supported the implementation of ASYCUDA and VNSW under Phase I and II of the EIF support. They have also provided support for the Reform Tracker and the NTFC empowerment programme.
The World Bank Group is assisting the TFSC to develop a Single Window Action.

Assistance required for:

• Vanuatu requires assistance to assist TFSC to continue to monitor how the VNSW is being implemented, develop a timeline for an action plan to stay on track.
• Vanuatu requires assistance to establish the linkages with other border agency systems including support for back-office system for Biosecurity and support for ASYCUDA to IPPC hub connection to facilitate the sending and receiving of e-phytosanitary certification.

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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