Committee on Trade Facilitation

AVERAGE RELEASE TIMES AND AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR (AEO) PROGRAMME UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILIATION

COMMUNICATION BY URUGUAY

The following communication, dated 1 March 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Uruguay.

Article 7.6 Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times

The National Directorate of Customs has overseen management indicators since 2010, including the "streamlining of controls" indicator, which measures the percentage of customs declarations with a clearance time of less than eight hours.

Calculation formula: \((A/B) \times 100\): \(A\) = Customs declarations with a clearance time of less than the established goal of eight hours and \(B\) = Total customs declarations. The calculation takes into account all customs declarations, including those for importation, exportation and transit.

The information is taken from the LUCIA Customs System and the indicator calculation is made using the ISOKEY Strategic Planning Management System.

The indicator results have been published on the following website: https://www.aduanas.gub.uy/innovaportal/v/19384/1/innova.front/tiempo-de-despacho.html.

Article 7.7 Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators

In Uruguay, the status of authorized economic operator (AEO) was provided for by Article 148 of Law No. 19.149 of 16 October 2013. The AEO Programme is regulated under Decree No. 51/2014 of 28 February 2014 as a tool for the facilitation of international trade, with a view to ensuring security and trust in the international supply chain.

The AEO Programme meets the standards established in the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework) of the World Customs Organization. Participation is voluntary and there is no charge for obtaining or holding an AEO certificate. The National Directorate of Customs is the only government authority competent to deal with customs matters and, as such, is the only AEO certifying authority. The AEO certificate is valid for three years, during which the National Directorate of Customs verifies compliance with requirements. Six months before the expiration of the certificate, the holder may make a request for renewal, which is examined by the National Directorate of Customs.
The Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) which are signed between customs authorities and which are based on the recognition of their AEO programmes are of great importance. Uruguay signed an MRA with Brazil in 2016, Korea in 2017 and Peru in 2018.