



23 March 2018

(18-1782)

Page: 1/4

Committee on Trade Facilitation

Original: Spanish

**NOTIFICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 AND 12.2.2
OF THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION**

COMMUNICATION FROM COSTA RICA

The following communication, dated 19 March 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Costa Rica.

Costa Rica hereby makes the following notifications in accordance with Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (WT/L/931).

Article 1, paragraph 4

(a) The official place(s) where the items in subparagraphs 1.1(a) to (j) have been published

1.1(a) Procedures for importation, exportation, and transit (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures), and required forms and documents:

The National Customs Service, through the Information Technology for Customs Control (TICA) manual on customs procedures	http://www.hacienda.go.cr/docs/540721e91b344ManualdeProcedimientosAduanerosTICA.pdf
The State Phytosanitary Service (SFE) is the authority competent to monitor and regulate trade in plant products and chemical, biological and related substances for agricultural use	https://www.sfe.go.cr/SitePages/Tramites/InicioTramites.aspx
The National Animal Health Service (SENASA) is the competent authority with respect to animal health and animal products	http://www.senasa.go.cr/tramites-y-servicios/quias-al-usuario

1.1(b) Applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation:

National Customs Service: TICA Tariff Schedule	http://www.hacienda.go.cr/tica/web/hdbaranc.aspx
State Phytosanitary Service	https://www.sfe.go.cr/SitePages/Tarifas/InicioTarifas.aspx
National Animal Health Service	http://www.senasa.go.cr/tramites-y-servicios/tarifas

1.1(c) Fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies on or in connection with importation, exportation or transit:

National Customs Service: List of charges other than taxes collected through TICA	http://www.hacienda.go.cr/docs/573e20f01ddf/Listado de Cargas diferentes a Impuestos cobrados en TICA.pdf
---	---

1.1(d) Rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes:

National Customs Service: Customs valuation of goods	http://www.hacienda.go.cr/docs/559d929728db9 Resumen Valoracion Aduanera de las Mercancias.pdf
--	---

1.1(e) Laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin:

Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX): Treaties in force	http://www.comex.go.cr/Tratados
Single Window for Exports (VUCE): Certification of origin	https://www.procomer.com/es/certificacion-origen-costa-rica#1

1.1(f) Import, export or transit restrictions or prohibitions:

National Customs Service: Required documents	https://www.hacienda.go.cr/tica/web/hdbwdoob.aspx
State Phytosanitary Service: Law on Phytosanitary Protection	https://www.sfe.go.cr/Leyes/Ley_N%C2%B07664 de Protecci%C3%B3n Fitosanitaria.pdf
National Animal Health Service: Resolutions	http://www.senasa.go.cr/informacion/legislacion-y-normativa/resoluciones

1.1(g) Penalty provisions for breaches of import, export, or transit formalities:

General Directorate of Customs (DGA): Penalty procedure	http://www.hacienda.go.cr/docs/5632768b56f17 Procedimiento Sancionatorio.pdf
National Animal Health Service: Administrative Tribunal	http://www.senasa.go.cr/institucion/organizacion/tribunal-de-procedimiento-administrativo-sancionador

1.1(h) Procedures for appeal or review:

National Customs Service: Appeals procedure	http://www.hacienda.go.cr/docs/563276833418a Procedimiento Recursivo.pdf
Customs law and regulations	http://www.hacienda.go.cr/contenido/12820-ley-y-reglamento-de-aduanas

1.1(i) Agreements or parts thereof with any country or countries relating to importation, exportation, or transit:

Ministry of Foreign Trade	http://www.comex.go.cr/Tratados
State Phytosanitary Service: International matters	https://www.sfe.go.cr/SitePages/Medidasfitosanitarias/InicioMedidasFitosanitarias.aspx

1.1(j) Procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas:

Ministry of Foreign Trade: Quotas	http://www.comex.go.cr/Contingentes
-----------------------------------	---

(b) The Uniform Resource Locators of website(s) referred to in paragraph 2.1

National Customs Service (DGA): Information on customs procedures. Official website	http://www.hacienda.go.cr/contenido/13227-informacion-de-interes-para-tramites-aduaneros
State Phytosanitary Service (SFE): Official website	https://www.sfe.go.cr/SitePages/Inicio.aspx
National Animal Health Service (SENASA): Official website	http://www.senasa.go.cr/senasa/sitio
Single Window for Exports: Official website	https://www.procomer.com/es/ventanilla-unica-comercio-exterior

(c) The contact information of the enquiry points referred to in paragraph 3.1

National Customs Service (SNA): The SNA information centre is open Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Information can be requested by calling (+506) 2522-9152 or by sending an email to pea@hacienda.go.cr.

State Phytosanitary Service (SFE): Any complaint, difference of opinion or suggestion may be communicated in person (at the Office of the Comptroller of Services of the SFE) or submitted in writing by using this form:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_XbJ8NTqkt6X0dqR2ILeWxMcUE/view?usp=drive_web

Additional information is available at:

<https://www.sfe.go.cr/SitePages/ContraloriadeServicios/InicioContraloriadeServicios.aspx>

and at:

<https://www.sfe.go.cr/SitePages/Contactenos.aspx>

National Animal Health Service (SENASA): A contact form is available at:

<http://www.senasa.go.cr/nuestras-oficinas/contacto>

There is also a section for complaints:

<http://www.senasa.go.cr/nuestras-oficinas/denuncie>

Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX): Information can be requested by email:

pep@comex.go.cr

Additional information is available at:

<http://www.comex.go.cr/contactenos>

Article 10, paragraph 4.3

Members shall notify the Committee of the details of operation of the single window.

Law 7638, which provided for the creation of a single window for foreign trade (VUCE), was enacted in 1996 with a view to facilitating and centralizing export and import processes. The VUCE has been the entity in charge of coordination, working with 16 institutions in order to centralize,

simplify and automate foreign-trade-related procedures. This is being achieved by means of the digital platform VUCE 2.0 and six physical offices, located in strategic geographic areas.

Forty-five technical notes on importation and exportation, from 16 government bodies, can be processed through the digital platform. It also allows for all the information related to any trade transaction to be uploaded into the system, thereby speeding up the approval process. Around 30,000 transactions a month are now conducted using this tool. VUCE 2.0 is available to users 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In addition it will, in the future, interoperate with similar systems in other countries, which will enable the advance exchange of information and facilitate risk management.

Information available online at: <https://www.procomer.com/es/ventanilla-unica-comercio-exterior>

Article 10, paragraph 6.2

Each member shall notify the committee and publish its measures on the use of customs brokers.

Any subsequent modifications thereof shall be notified and published promptly.

Article 37 of the General Customs Law provides the following with respect to action by customs brokers:

"Action by customs brokers shall be required in all customs regimes and shall be optional in the following customs regimes or modalities: free zones, export, bonded warehousing, ships' stores, outward processing, and in the following modalities: travellers' luggage, relief consignments, samples of no commercial value, express or "courier" deliveries, mail, duty-free shops, non-commercial imports, private deliveries, in-works and commercial clearance, imports by the State and its institutions and, in general, shipment of goods subject to regimes or procedures that do not require action by a customs broker and authorized under this Law. (As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 8373 of 18 August 2003)"

Law available online at:

http://www.hacienda.go.cr/docs/51c9baa1b805f_LEYGENERALDEADUANASACTUALIZADAAOCTUBRE2012.pdf

Article 12, paragraph 2.2

Each Member shall notify the Committee of the details of its contact point for the exchange of this information.

National Customs Service	Email: pea@hacienda.go.cr Telephone: (+506) 2522-9152 http://www.hacienda.go.cr/contenido/13227-informacion-de-interes-para-tramites-aduaneros
--------------------------	---