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Committee on Trade Facilitation

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**NOTIFICATION OF CATEGORY COMMITMENTS UNDER
THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION**

COMMUNICATION FROM BELIZE

The following communication, dated 19 February 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Belize for Members' information.

Following up on the notification dated 4 September 2015 (WT/PCTF/N/BLZ/1), in which Belize indicated its category A commitments, Belize hereby makes the following notifications in accordance with Articles 15 and 16 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (WT/L/931).

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Definitive date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation (for category C)
Article 1 Publication and Availability of Information					
Article 1.1	Publication	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External Financial assistance to implement electronic version of Belize's Customs tariffs and nomenclature and the electronic Customs Procedure Manual. 2. Development of systems to safeguard and protect the authenticity of documents that are uploaded to avoid unauthorized use and manipulation. 3. Diagnostic study on the relevance of the import licensing regime by product categories, so as to provide the scope for a modern policy/legal framework. Legal aid is required to proceed. 4. Develop a trade portal requiring a functioning website for the Directorate General for Foreign Trade. 5. Technical assistance to assess current infrastructure and recommendations for the development and implementation of an electronic trade management information system. Assistance should be inclusive of equipment and requisite training at all levels. 6. External financial and technical assistance for a comprehensive information system for BAHA which will allow for electronic transactions and information sharing. 7. External financial and technical assistance for the review and drafting of Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations and bills. 8. Technical assistance to ensure that the policy for the provision of trade and trade related information is in line with Government policies and regulations. 9. Technical assistance needed to design a communications framework that meets the needs of BAHA and its stakeholders.

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					10. Training and IT development/advancement. 11. Technical and financial assistance to develop and implement a wide-area network for BAHA.
Article 1.2	Information Available through Internet	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Legal aid required to: - Develop policy (guided by international standards) and guidelines. - Revise/Amend or Repeal the existing laws to take into considerations publication provisions as prescribed under the AILP. 2. Training on NTBs/WTO AILP. 3. Technical assistance and financial support in area of IT for safeguarding and protecting the authenticity of documents that are uploaded to avoid unauthorized use and manipulation. Note: TACB identified in Art. 1.1 also applicable here.
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Develop within the Directorate General for Foreign Trade a Trade Portal for the amalgamation of enquiries and responses. 2. Legally establish Trade information enquiry point designated as the Central authority within the Government. 3. Legal drafter to amend/revise the existing legislation to identify the Supplies Control Unit as the official contact point with functions and responsibilities clearly defined in all matters relevant to import licensing.
Article 1.4	Notification	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Training on WTO notification.

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Article 2 Opportunity to Comment, Information before Entry into Force and Consultations					
Article 2.1	Opportunity to Comment and Information Before Entry into Force	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide more links through other trade related websites where all traders can have access to proposed changes to laws and regulations. 2. Legal aid/advice required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revise/Amend or Repeal the existing laws to take into considerations publication of procedures/administration etc. as prescribed under the AILP. - To proceed with compliance to the AILP. 3. Training on NTBs/WTO AILP.
Article 2.2	Consultations	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical Assistance to develop a Consultation policy; specific areas should include developing skills in regulatory impact assessment. 2. Technical Consultancy to develop the strategy/ policy for consultations and designate unit for implementation. 3. Legal Counsel to determine a standardized approach to consultations.
Article 3 Advance Rulings					
		C	22 February 2020	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draftsperson needed with expertise in British common law to establish binding rulings. 2. Training in binding rulings. 3. 'Train the trainer' program.
Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review					
		C	22 February 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultancy to determine the legal framework for Appeal or Review process. 2. Legal Counsel to determine the framework for the institutionalization of the review and appeals process. 3. Legal assistance is necessary to develop structure of appeals tribunal. 4. Technical Assistance/Guidance to determine the human resource needs. 5. Financial and technical resources for equipment and software and expertise

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					in developing an efficient electronic filing system. 6. Assistance with developing an appeal policy and relevant procedures.
Article 5 Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-Discrimination and Transparency					
Article 5.1	Notification for Enhanced Controls or Inspections	C	22 February 2019	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legal advice due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of legal provision for import control purposes to be shared among border agencies. - Lack of established procedures to notify border authorities with respect to enhancing controls and inspections. - Lack of established procedures to ensure publication of a notice of termination of an import alert in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner. 2. Technical Assistance and financial support needed to set up an alert system of notification for BAHA. 3. A Systems Administrator has been hired in the interim to assist with updating BAHA's website however we lack an information and alert system to notify other agencies and service users regarding enhanced controls and inspections.
Article 5.2	Detention	C	22 February 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is need for quarantine holding facilities at all major points of entry inclusive of treatment facilities and refrigeration units.
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical assistance in acquisition of equipment for the National Forensic Laboratory which performs testing for Customs. 2. All BAHA diagnostic units require more human and material resources to improve testing capacity and to meet ISO 17025 accreditation. 3. Capacity Building of officers.
Article 6 Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation and Penalties					
Article 6.1	General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical assistance needed for regulatory impact assessment for

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	Importation and Exportation				BAHA. Output would provide the necessary justifications to obtain support for enactment of amended regulations and draft bills. 2. Undertake a feasibility study for BAHA.
Article 6.2	Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	B	22 February 2020	22 February 2020	-
Article 6.3	Penalty Disciplines	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. There is a need for formal training.
Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods					
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Upgrade agencies to full electronic systems for connectivity to ASYCUDA WORLD. Revision of current systems, updating existing systems and creation of new systems (Single-window approach). 2. BAHA need financial and technical assistance to implement an information system for the entire organisation. This would then address both import and export procedures and facilitate recall mechanism when necessary. Training of personnel required in this aspect.
Article 7.2	Electronic Payment	B	22 February 2020	22 February 2020	-
Article 7.3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	A	-	-	-
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Acquire a legal draftsman. 2. Acquire the necessary external technical assistance to develop a risk management strategy. 3. Acquire the necessary external technical assistance to establish operating procedures due to lack of standardized criteria. 4. Acquire the necessary external technical assistance in areas of risk management analysis in data gathering and criteria building.
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Provide specialized training to Post-Audit Unit. Secure specialized training

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					from external sources. (WCO, EU and CCLEC). 2. Request technical assistance to develop and implement the necessary systems. Secure technical assistance from EU. 3. Restructuring of the Post-Audit Unit and acquiring the proper audit software and other analytical tools. Secure technical assistance for training, software and analytical tools funding.
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Technical assistance to develop TRS policy and procedures. 2. Technical assistance for training in the use of TRS software. 3. Assistance in conducting a study on the aspects that contribute to average release times for commodities regulated by BAHA.
Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	B	22 February 2020	22 February 2022	-
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Capacity building to develop and administer single document processing for expedited shipment (based on 2014 Needs Assessment). 2. Funding for IT equipment for administering expedited shipments (based on 2014 Needs Assessment). 3. TA for the standardization of procedures in expedited shipment.
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	C	22 February 2021	To be determined	1. Technical and financial assistance required to ensure that proper inspection facilities are in place for agricultural and food product at each official point of entry. In addition, for trade in live animals appropriate holding and inspection facilities need to be in place (facilitate quarantine period and treatment where necessary prior to import and export and where applicable even for in-transit consignments).
Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation					
		B	22 February 2019	22 February 2019	-

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Article 9 Movement of Goods Intended for Import under Customs Control					
		A	-	-	-
Article 10 Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit					
Article 10.1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	B	22 February 2020	22 February 2020	-
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	A	-	-	-
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Financial support to participate in meetings of the International Standard Setting Bodies and the WTO/SPS Committee Meetings.
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Technical Assistance and training for establishing a Single Window facility required. 2. Technical Assistance: equipment for the operation of the single window. 3. Capacity Building: Training for users (authorities, customs brokers, etc.) of the single window. 4. Public awareness campaign on the need and benefits of the single window. A regional approach is being taken towards a regional single window; which will be compatible with international standard; Belize taking a national approach in being fully compliant. (Key issue: compatibility).
Article 10.5	Pre-shipment Inspection	A	-	-	-
Article 10.6	Use of Customs Brokers	A	-	-	-
Article 10.7	Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	B	22 February 2019	22 February 2019	-
Article 10.8	Rejected Goods	A	-	-	-
Article 10.9	Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Technical assistance to provide specialized training. Lack of trained officers in supervision and audit of manufacturing operations.
Article 11 Freedom of Transit					
Article 11.1-11.3		C	22 February 2022	To be determined	1. Comprehensive study and review of other fees and charges. Technical assistance needed for comprehensive study and review.

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Article 11.4-11.15		A	-	-	-
Article 11.16-11.17		C	22 February 2020	To be determined	1. Technical assistance to facilitate comprehensive review/study and draft a Legal text. Comprehensive review and analysis of viability and benefits of membership into SIECA (Include a clause to address cross border transit issues).
Article 12 Customs Cooperation					
		A	-	-	-