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Committee on Trade Facilitation

Original: Spanish

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

COMMUNICATION FROM ECUADOR

The following communication, dated 29 January 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Ecuador for Members' information.

Following up on the notification dated 7 August 2014 (WT/PCTF/N/ECU/1), in which it indicated its category A commitments, the Republic of Ecuador hereby makes the following additional 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	B	15 January 2021	15 January 2021	-
Article 1.2	Information Available through Internet	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 1.4	Notification	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 2 Opportunity to Comment, Information before Entry into Force and Consultations					
Article 2.1	Opportunity to Comment and Information Before Entry into Force	A	-	-	-
Article 2.2	Consultations	C	15 January 2022	To be determined	Cooperation to establish an online consultation system allowing for interaction between government bodies and users. This system should collect and record comments made by natural and legal persons regarding regulations, legislation and other provisions issued by the various bodies.
Article 3 Advance Rulings					
		B ¹	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review					
		A	-	-	-
Article 5 Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-Discrimination and Transparency					
Article 5.1	Notification for Enhanced Controls or Inspections	B	15 January 2021	15 January 2021	-
Article 5.2	Detention	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	15 January 2024	To be determined	Cooperation to strengthen diagnostic laboratories in the areas of plant health, animal health and food safety. This contribution will focus on establishing adequate infrastructure in terms of appropriate control points for inspection and quarantine, laboratory equipment, and reagents, etc.

¹ With regard to the origin of goods, advance rulings refer to documentary verification of compliance with rules of origin.

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					<p>Staff training is required on new analytical methodologies. Cooperation is also required to help organize workshops on the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing methods to ensure the quality of activities carried out in customs laboratories. • Optimizing the process for meeting the necessary requirements for compliance with ISO standards. • Evaluation, verification and control of laboratory conditions and the methods used. <p>To this end, it is suggested that trainers have experience of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a laboratory management model; instructions and procedures; equipment maintenance and calibration plans; and analytical instruments. • Implementation of quality systems in customs laboratories. • Implementation and use of methodologies. • Physico-chemical analysis of samples of goods for tariff classification purposes. <p>Safety measures to protect facilities, equipment and instruments assigned to the division.</p>
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 Importation and Exportation	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-

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Article 6.2	Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 6.3	Penalty Disciplines	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods					
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	A	-	-	-
Article 7.2	Electronic Payment	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 7.3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	15 January 2022	To be determined	Cooperation for training and technical assistance with a view to implementing systems for the exchange of information between countries on levels of risk. Better practices and new procedures are needed to deal with high- and low-risk goods. A risk management assessment is required, which takes into account all the parameters of the bodies involved in trade in goods. Cooperation is also requested to ensure the exchange of information (creation of statistical models, forecasts and better risk management practices) between other customs offices and control bodies.
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	15 January 2022	To be determined	Cooperation for training and technical assistance with a view to creating statistical models and improving methodology for the assignment of post-control audits, non-participatory reviews and implementation.
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	A	-	-	-

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Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	15 January 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical assistance to establish a road map before introducing new links into the programme. 2. Technical assistance to devise strategies to establish mutual recognition agreements between SENA and other customs administrations with regard to AEO programmes. 3. Technical assistance and funding to develop the connectivity of the SENA customs computer system and the systems of other customs administrations for the purposes of information exchange, risk management and the mutual recognition of AEO programmes. 4. Funding to systematize the process for applying for, renewing and revalidating AEO status. 5. Funding to participate in the validation or re-validation (<i>in situ</i>) of applicant companies in other countries, with a view to incorporating new international practices into the Ecuador AEO programme.

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					6. Funding for internships relating to the implementation of the AEO programme, and training on issues linked to international logistics chain security. 7. Funding to allow for participation in conferences, seminars and/or national and international fairs relating to the AEO programme.
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	B	15 January 2022	15 January 2022	-
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	B	15 January 2024	15 January 2024	-
Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation					
		C	15 January 2024	To be determined	Cooperation for the creation of a single digital platform that provides border agencies with access to information on trade operation requirements and audits. Equipment is needed for buildings housing Bi-National Border Service Centres (CEBAF) on trunk road No. 3 from Macará to La Tina (Ecuador – Peru). These centres are expected to provide around 120 jobs for the two countries and will facilitate trade. Cooperation for the hiring of professional chemists to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week in substance-control activities at the border crossings of Rumichaca, San Miguel, Huaquillas and Macará, and at ports and airports (Guayaquil and Quito).

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					<p>Standards are required for these substances for quantitative and qualitative analysis purposes (approved preliminary identification tests – PIPH). Technology and infrastructure are also required for diagnosis with a view to quarantine treatments; incinerator facilities are required, as well as quarantine areas and border point transport facilities.</p> <p>Cooperation to provide laboratories with Raman technology, infrared, and mass gas chromatography equipment, digital potentiometers, refractometers and dosimeters, etc. Ongoing training is also needed for border control staff, with an emphasis on the sharing of experiences with other countries in the region; issues covered should include container control, new psychoactive substances, synthetic drugs, new camouflage techniques, and new chemical analysis techniques, amongst others.</p> <p>In order to ensure and protect the integrity of the country, electronic security systems are required, such as perimeter fences, cameras, sensors,</p>

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					scanners for persons and vehicles, etc. In addition, personal protective equipment is required for the handling of controlled drugs.
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	15 January 2022	15 January 2022	-
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	B	15 January 2022	15 January 2022	-
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	A	-	-	-
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	15 January 2023	To be determined	Cooperation for an electronic automated registration system that covers all entities responsible for issuing resolutions, permits, certificates, automatic and non-automatic licences, and accompanying documents (pre-shipment) and supporting documents that are required for importing and exporting. Cooperation for streamlining the incorporation into the Single Window of new control measures involving certificates and other documents that are required for the shipment of imports and exports. Acquisition of technological components and restructuring of the internal systems of entities issuing control documents that are not linked to Ecuador's single window.
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	A	-	-	-
Article 10.8	Rejected Goods	A	-	-	-

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Article 10.9	Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	A	-	-	-
Article 11 Freedom of Transit					
Article 11.1-11.6		A	-	-	-
Article 11.7-11.15		C	15 January 2021	To be determined	Cooperation to ensure that all customs institutions in neighbouring countries are able to implement the International Goods Transit (TIM) system, which entails the sharing of advance, timely and quality information between customs institutions. In the case of Ecuador, which is a member of the Andean Community (CAN), cooperation needs to extend towards other CAN countries, so as to ensure the proper implementation of the TIM and support for its maintenance. Resources are needed to implement the system, with a view to integrating controls for goods in transit at borders in order to ensure the traceability of goods at community level. A computer-based alert system (software) needs to be set up to record complaints, customs violations or related offences concerning foreign trade operators using the TIM; such a system would make it possible to foresee possible customs violations and take appropriate binational action in response.

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					Virtual kiosks are requested to ensure that checks on individuals are carried out swiftly and appropriately. The use of RFID technology is requested in respect of tourist vehicles, containers and loading platforms, so as to ensure enhanced traceability (https://vimeo.com/123770264). Cooperation for the setting up of mirrored rooms at border facilities that allow for the on-line control of customs operations; cooperation to ensure that control officials are properly equipped.
Article 11.16-11.17		A	-	-	-
Article 12 Customs Cooperation		B	15 January 2020	15 January 2020	-