



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

COMMUNICATION FROM MALDIVES

The following communication, dated 4 December 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Maldives for Members' information.

The Government of Maldives hereby makes the following notifications in response to 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	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	-
Article 1.2	Information Available Through Internet	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<p>Assistance and financial support are required to translate all existing laws, rules and regulations, standards, guidelines, SOPs relating to trade, into English language.</p> <p>Assistance and support are required to upgrade, Ministry of Economic Development (MED) and Maldives Food and Drug Authority (MFDA) website.</p> <p>Assistance to develop capacity of MED, MFDA and officials of Ministry of Health (MoH) to manage, maintain and update website, / information portal.</p> <p>Assistance to develop Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture (MoFMA) to further develop fisheries information system (FIS), and assistance to develop capacity on managing and updating fisheries information portal.</p>
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	31 December 2021	31 December 2022	Assistance to build institutional arrangements, develop staff capacity, training of staff on operating and maintaining enquiry points.
Article 1.4	Notification	C	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	<p>Assistance and support required to train staff in the area of notification.</p> <p>Assistance is needed to establish an electronic information and notification management system or such mechanism, enabling an expeditious, accurate and timely flow in notifications.</p>
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	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	Assistance and support required to train staff to build the legal competency to develop procedures and a mechanism for public consultation on laws and regulations.
Article 2.2	Consultations	B	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	-

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Article 3 Advance Rulings					
		C	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	Assistance on training and building expertise on advance ruling and on Rules of Origin (ROO) required for Customs officials and other border related agencies. Assistance to conduct public education campaigns for stakeholder awareness and engagement.
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	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	Assistance and support to implement an e-notification alert system for Health Protection Agency (HPA), Maldives Food and Drug Authority (MFDA) and Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture and capacity building to facilitate notification for enhanced controls and/or inspections. Assistance to review the legal framework and procedures to analyse and enhance the legal framework and procedures.
Article 5.2	Detention	A	-	-	-
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2025	Assistance and financial support are required to acquire laboratory testing kits and relevant laboratory equipment and materials. Assistance and support are required to train and build capacity of the technical staff and testing capabilities of laboratory staff. Assistance and support are required to strengthen capacity at National Health Laboratory for food and medicine testing. Assistance and support are also required to establish port facilities at central and regional level for food and medicine storage. Assistance and support are also required to develop testing parameters and accreditation.

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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	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	-
Article 6.2	Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	A	-	-	-
Article 6.3	Penalty Disciplines	A	-	-	-
Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods					
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	A	-	-	-
Article 7.2	Electronic Payment	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	Capacity development for the respective institutions that will be involved in the implementation of the national single window system. Assistance required to strengthen the legal framework, to enable electronic payments. The feature of electronic payment may be made available with the introduction of National Single Window (NSW).
Article 7.3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	Assistance and financial support to procure the relevant technologies, such as pallet scanners, container X-ray scanners, so that shipments can be released without payment of duty and taxes, upon providing adequate security or guarantee. Assistance on introduction of a security/guarantee system in Customs.
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	Expert support on the design and establishment of a risk management system. ICT Infrastructure and technology for an automated risk management system. Assistance required for the development of capacity of staff in related institutions on the implementation of the risk management system.

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					Technical assistance to develop a mechanism to ensure enhanced coordination and collaboration between border agencies on risk identification, and application of risk management. Expert support required in the design, establishment and operation of a risk management system.
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	Assistance required for Maldives Customs Service and where required, at other related agencies to develop a full-fledged PCA System, with all internal process and procedures, which is also linked with the risk management system that will complement each other.
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	Assistance is required on designing, planning and implementing time-release studies. Staff capacity needs to be developed and the necessary training is required for staff on improving the average time release.
Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	Technical assistance and support are required to introduce authorized trader/operator scheme, develop a monitoring framework through which Customs can establish and monitor operator compliance and the necessary training to Customs Officials. Training and capacity building are also required for all other border agencies to ensure fuller compliance to this provision.
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	B	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	-
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	A	-	-	-
Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation					
		C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	Training is required for Business Process Analysis, data harmonization, data standardization and automation among border agencies.
Article 9 Movement of Goods Intended for Import under Customs Control					
		A	-	-	-

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Article 10 Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit					
Article 10.1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	B	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	-
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	B	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	-
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	C	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	<p>Training and capacity development are required to support the staff of relevant institutions to comply with international standards and best practices.</p> <p>Assistance is required for testing, certification, inspection and accreditation capabilities of relevant regulatory agencies and provide assistance for upgrading the facilities in compliance with international standards.</p> <p>Assistance required to join ATA Carnet. (Note: Customs will be acceding to the RKC soon.)</p> <p>Training is required for Customs Officials to implement ATA Carnet.</p> <p>Technical expertise required to identify gaps between existing legislation and international standards and assist to align in accordance with them.</p>
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	<p>Training and capacity building are required for relevant border agency staff and the business community to sensitize and train them to implement and operate in a National Single Window environment.</p> <p>Training is required, specifically focused on those officials who will be involved in the day to day operation and implementation of the National Single Window System in the country.</p> <p>Technical assistance is also required to build the institutional capacity in relevant border agencies, in order to implement the National Single Window.</p>

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					(Note: Financial assistance requested, funding approved and Agreements signed with ADB in 2019, for the development of a National Single Window in Maldives. Funding for this project will be released in 2019).
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	B	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	-
Article 10.9	Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2025	Technical assistance and training are required to supervise and audit inward and outward operations. Technical assistance to establish the link between revenue authority in determining inward/outward duty and applicable taxes.
Article 11 Freedom of Transit					
		C	31 December 2023	31 December 2025	Technical assistance and capacity building required to develop a legal framework and in the ICT field. Assistance to introduce security/guarantee system. Assistance to train staff at Customs and other border agencies. Assistance required to establish a coordination and cooperation exchange mechanism between border agencies.
Article 12 Customs Cooperation					
		B	31 December 2021	31 December 2022	-