



28 September 2018

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**Committee on Trade Facilitation**

Original: English

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

COMMUNICATION FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The following communication, dated 27 September 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago for Members' information.

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Following up on the notification dated 27 November 2017 (G/TFA/N/TTO/1), in which Trinidad and Tobago provided indicative dates for its category B and C commitments, Trinidad and Tobago 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)
<b>Article 1 Publication and Availability of Information</b>					
Article 1.1	Publication	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/Policy - Revision of existing legislation or drafting of new legislation to include Art. 1.1 provisions</li> <li>Human Resource - Train personnel to carry out Art. 1.1 provisions</li> <li>ICT - Conduct a gap analysis</li> </ul>
Article 1.2	Information Available through Internet	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICT - Development of content for a Trade Information Portal</li> <li>Human Resource/Training - Train personnel</li> <li>Equipment - Equipment for infrastructural upgrades</li> </ul>
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/Policy - Revision of existing legislation or drafting of new legislation to include Art. 1.1 provisions</li> <li>Procedures - Develop procedures for responding to requests</li> <li>Human Resource/Training - Train staff in the management of an Enquiry Point for the Agreement</li> </ul>
Article 1.4	Notification	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Resource/Training - Conduct awareness sessions on procedures for notifications and information to be notified</li> </ul>
<b>Article 2 Opportunity to Comment, Information before Entry into Force and Consultations</b>					
Article 2.1	Opportunity to Comment and Information Before Entry into Force	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Develop policy to allow traders and other interested parties to comment on new and amended laws</li> <li>Legal - Legislative and institutional amendments (legal consultancy)</li> </ul>
Article 2.2	Consultations	A	-	-	-
<b>Article 3 Advance Rulings</b>					
		C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/Policy - Legislative Drafting or amendment of all legislation applicable to the issuance of Advanced Rulings</li> <li>Human Resources/Training - Train personnel to support the issuance of Advanced Rulings (e.g. Rules of Origin and Classification)</li> </ul>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedural - Development of policy procedures in line with requirements of this article</li> </ul>
<b>Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review</b>					
		C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Resource/Training - Train personnel</li> <li>Legal/Policy - Legislative Drafting</li> </ul>
<b>Article 5 Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-Discrimination and Transparency</b>					
Article 5.1	Notification for Enhanced Controls or Inspections	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/Policy - Revision of existing legislation that sets out procedures for enhanced controls or inspections for food, beverages or feedstuffs</li> </ul>
Article 5.2	Detention	B	31 December 2020	31 December 2020	-
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure/Equipment - Funding accreditation of local labs</li> <li>Human Resources/Training - Train personnel</li> <li>Legal/Policy - develop laws and policy to ensure compliance with this article</li> <li>Procedural - Development of policy procedures in line with requirements of this article</li> </ul>
<b>Article 6 Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation and Penalties</b>					
Article 6.1	General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical - Procure and fund a consultant to conduct a Time Release Study for Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>Procedural - Develop and publish a single schedule of all fees and charges related to imports and exports</li> </ul>
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	-	-	-
<b>Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods</b>					
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/Policy - Legislative Drafting or amendment of all legislation applicable to this article</li> <li>Procedural - Develop and publish procedures</li> </ul>

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 7.2	Electronic Payment	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal/Policy - Legislative Drafting or amending of all legislation in order to undertake Electronic Payment</li> <li>• Equipment - Funding upgrades of the necessary infrastructure</li> <li>• Human Resources/Training - Train personnel</li> </ul>
Article 7.3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal/Policy - Development of policy on payment of guarantees for monetary penalties or fines</li> </ul>
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal/Policy - Legislative amendments to the Customs Act</li> <li>• Human Resources/Training - Train personnel in risk management techniques; Periodic training in risk management</li> <li>• ICT - Acquisition of risk management system software for Customs control; Design and implement Risk Management System</li> <li>• Procedural - Develop risk registers for importers and other procedures</li> </ul>
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal/Policy - Legislative amendments to the Customs Act</li> <li>• Legislative and institutional</li> <li>• Human resources/Training - Train personnel and develop continuous work programs</li> <li>• Implement auditing software</li> <li>• Procedures - creation of a strategic plan in the area of Post Clearance Audit and Risk Management</li> </ul>
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal/Policy - Legislative amendments to the Customs Act</li> <li>• Technical Assistance - needed to conduct a Time Release Study for Trinidad and Tobago</li> </ul>
Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures - Develop an Authorized Operator Programme</li> <li>• Legal/Policy - assistance with policy development and drafting of regulations</li> </ul>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Resource/Training - capacity building for all border agencies is needed to ensure full compliance with this measure</li> </ul>
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Resources/Training - Train personnel</li> <li>Legal/Policy - Legislative amendments to the Customs Act</li> <li>Procedures - Development of procedures for the operation of the programme and provide advice on the criteria to be used to determine companies which qualify</li> </ul>
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	A	-	-	-
<b>Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation</b>					
		B	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	-
<b>Article 9 Movement of Goods Intended for Import under Customs Control</b>					
		C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/Policy - Legislative amendments to the Customs Act (legal consultancy) inclusive of regulations and policy</li> </ul>
<b>Article 10 Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit</b>					
Article 10.1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	A	-	-	-
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	B	31 December 2020	31 December 2023	-
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedures - Assess the testing, certification, inspection and accreditation capabilities of food safety regulatory agencies and provide assistance for upgrading facilities and achieving compliance with relevant standards</li> <li>Human Resources/Training - Develop and implement a training and certification program to assist exporters to meet relevant standards awareness session on the importance of the use of international standards</li> </ul>
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical - Develop information security plan, Business Continuity System; Develop change management strategy; Develop capacity building program and knowledge management strategy and Service Oriented Architecture</li> </ul>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/Policy - technical assistance to modernize legislative and institutional framework and institutional governance of the Single Electronic Window</li> <li>Procedural - Conduct business process reengineering</li> <li>Human Resource/ Training - Train personnel; Undertake public awareness campaign</li> <li>ICT - Develop a Trade Data Information System, an Integrated Multimodal Logistics Module, Information Security Plan, Business Continuity System and Service Oriented Architecture</li> </ul>
Article 10.5	Pre-shipment Inspection	A	-	-	-
Article 10.6	Use of Customs Brokers	B	31 December 2020	31 December 2023	-
Article 10.7	Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	B	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	-
Article 10.8	Rejected Goods	A	-	-	-
Article 10.9	Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	A	-	-	-
<b>Article 11 Freedom of Transit</b>					
		A	-	-	-
<b>Article 12 Customs Cooperation</b>					
Article 12.1	Measures Promoting Compliance and Cooperation	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control</li> </ul>
Article 12.2	Exchange of Information	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control</li> </ul>
Article 12.3	Verification	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Development of a Policy Customs Control</li> </ul>
Article 12.4	Request	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control and for information requests</li> </ul>
Article 12.5	Protection and Confidentiality	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control and for information requests</li> </ul>
Article 12.6	Provision of Information	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control and for information requests</li> </ul>

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Article 12.7	Postponement or Refusal of a Request	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/ Policy – Revision of Customs Act and Data Protection Act to ensure TFA provisions are covered; development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control and for information requests</li> </ul>
Article 12.8	Reciprocity	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/ Policy – development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control and for information requests</li> <li>Human Resource/Training – fill staff vacancies</li> <li>Procedural – Revision of Business Process Management</li> </ul>
Article 12.9	Administrative Burden	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal/ Policy – development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control and for information requests</li> <li>Human Resource/Training – Train personnel</li> <li>Procedural – Revision of Business Process Management</li> </ul>
Article 12.10	Limitations	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control and for information requests</li> </ul>
Article 12.11	Unauthorized Use or Disclosure	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy - Development of a Policy for the Enhancement of Customs Control and for verification procedures</li> </ul>
Article 12.12	Bilateral and Regional Agreements	A	-	-	-