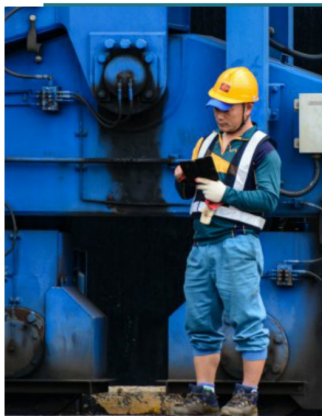


Next steps upon the entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement



**Technical Note No. 24
2017**



This technical note provides guidelines to countries for actions to be taken following the entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

What is the Trade Facilitation Agreement?

The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) contains provisions for expediting the import, export and transit procedures, including the movement, release and clearance of goods with a view to reducing related costs. It also sets forth ground-breaking rules on special and differential treatment, linking implementation by developing and least developed countries (LDCs) to their acquisition of technical assistance and capacity building.

The full implementation of the TFA is expected to reduce total trade costs by more than 14% for low-income countries and more than 13 % for upper middle-income countries (OECD, 2013). It is further expected to decrease trade costs of manufactured goods by 18 % and of agricultural goods by 10.4 %. The TFA could also generate up to US\$1 trillion of gains around the world annually (WTO, 2015). Developing countries and LDCs, particularly African countries are expected to see the greatest reductions in trade costs.

The TFA is the first multilateral trade agreement concluded under the WTO umbrella in 21 years. To bring the WTO TFA into force, 110 out of the 164 WTO Members had to ratify the Agreement. WTO Members that have ratified the Agreement, upon entry into force, would implement it on Most-Favoured-Nations (MFN) basis.

Categorization

Under Section II of the TFA, developing and least developed countries shall self-determine the time and the means required to implement measures in Article 1 to 12 of the TFA per the following categories:

Category A: measures that the WTO Member will implement by the time the Agreement enters into force (LDCs may implement up to one year thereafter);

Category B: measures for which the WTO Member will need additional time; and

Category C: measures for which the WTO Member will need additional time which it defines and technical and/or financial assistance or capacity building to implement.

What is required upon entry into force?⁺

Upon entry into force of the TFA, WTO Members that have ratified the Agreement need to take the steps below depending on their stage of development.

Note that developing countries and LDCs shall undertake these steps contingent they wish to use Section II of the TFA. The deadlines were calculated under the assumption that such countries will use the full timeframes for notifications set forth in Section II of the TFA.

Developed countries

Upon entry into force

- Have a National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) in place.
- Implement all measures contained in the TFA.
- Submit to the WTO information on the disbursed and committed Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TACB) support in the format annexed to the TFA and annually thereafter.
- Notify the WTO of contact information of their Agencies Responsible for TACB and contact points within the country or region of intended assistance.
- Submit to the WTO information on the process and the mechanism of requesting assistance from developing and least developed countries.

By February 2018

Inform the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation on the arrangements made or entered into for the implementation of Category C provisions for developing countries.

By February 2019

Submit to the WTO information on the disbursed and committed TACB support in the format annexed to the TFA.

By August 2019

Provide information to the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation on progress made in terms of the provision of TACB support to developing countries.

By February 2021

Notify the WTO of the arrangements made with the LDCs to enable the implementation of Category C provisions.

By August 2022

Inform the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation on progress made in terms of the provision of TACB support to the LDCs.

⁺ International Trade Centre, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Timeline, available at <http://www.intracen.org/itc/trade-facilitation-programme/research-and-capacity-building-publications/>

Developing countries

- Have an NTFC in place.
- Notify the WTO of category A designations by the countries that have not done so.
- Implement category A designations.
- Notify the WTO of category B and C designations, including the indicative dates - for implementation. The category C notifications shall include information on TACB required to implement.
- Submit to the WTO – in the case of developing countries declaring themselves in a position to assist and support other developing or least developed countries – information on the disbursed and committed TACB support in the format annexed to the TFA.

**Upon entry
into force**

- Notify the WTO of the definitive dates for implementation of category B designations.
- Inform the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee of the arrangements made or entered into for the implementation of Category C provisions.

**By
February
2018**

Submit to the WTO – in the case of developing countries declaring themselves in a position to assist and support other developing or least developed countries – information on the disbursed and committed TACB support in the format annexed to the TFA.

**By
February
2019**

- Notify the WTO of the definitive dates for the implementation of category C designations.
- Provide information to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee on the progress made on TACB support.

**By
August
2019**



National Trade Facilitation Committees

The entry into force of the TFA also brings important institutional changes at the national level. Under Article 23.2, WTO Members, either developed or developing country, are required to establish, or maintain National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs).

The NTFCs are platforms where representatives from the public and private sectors consult, inform, coordinate and engage in strategies towards the successful implementation of the Agreement. Upon entry into force, WTO Members are expected to have fully operational NTFC in place.

The UN Repository on NTFCs around the world contains case studies from over 120 countries that have set up NTFCs. More information available at unctad.org/tfc

Least developed countries

Upon entry into force

- Have an NTFC in place.
- Start the countdown for notification of categories A, B and C designations.

By February 2018

- Notify the WTO of category A designations.
- Notify the WTO of category B designations with the option of notifying indicative dates of implementation.
- Notify the WTO of category C designations.

By February 2019

Inform the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation on the TACB support required for implementation of category C designations.

By February 2020

Confirm with the WTO of category B designations and definitive dates of implementation.

By February 2021

- Inform the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation on the arrangements entered into for the implementation of category C provisions.
- Notify indicative dates for the implementation of category C designations.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_9346

