

ANNEX VI

REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 2.11

TRADE FACILITATION

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Article 1

General Principles

The Parties, aiming to serve the interests of their respective business communities and to create a trading environment allowing them to benefit from the opportunities offered by the Agreement, agree that in particular the following principles are the basis for the development and administration of trade facilitation measures by their competent authorities:

- (a) transparency, efficiency, simplification, harmonisation and consistency of trade procedures;
- (b) consistent, impartial, predictable and reasonable administration of laws, regulations and administrative decisions relevant to international trade in goods;
- (c) promotion of international standards;
- (d) consistency with multilateral instruments;
- (e) best possible use of information technology;
- (f) high standards of public service;
- (g) governmental controls based on risk management;
- (h) cooperation within each Party among customs and other border authorities; and
- (i) consultations between the Parties and their respective business communities.

Article 2

Transparency

1. Each Party shall promptly make available and update, as far as practicable in English, the following, through internet:

- (a) laws, rules, regulations, administrative decisions or rulings of general application and procedures relevant to trade in goods;
 - (b) a description of its importation, exportation and transit procedures, including appeal procedures, that informs interested parties of the practical steps needed to trade or transit goods;
 - (c) the forms and documents required for trade or transit through the territory of that Party; and
 - (d) contact information on enquiry points.
2. Each Party shall establish enquiry points for customs and other matters relevant to trade in goods, which may be contacted in English via the internet. Answers to enquiries in English shall be in English. The Parties shall not require any fee for answering enquiries.
3. Each Party shall consult its business community on its needs with regard to the development and implementation of trade facilitation measures, giving particular attention to the interests of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
4. Each Party shall, to the extent possible, publish in advance, and on the internet, any proposed laws and regulations relevant to international trade, with a view to affording interested persons an opportunity to comment on them.
5. Each Party shall ensure that a reasonable interval is provided between the publication of laws and regulations relevant to international trade in goods and their entry into force.

Article 3

Advance Rulings

1. Upon written request of an importer, exporter, or producer or through a duly authorised representative, a Party shall issue a binding written advance ruling, in a reasonable time bound manner, which contains all necessary information with regard to:
- (a) tariff classification and the applied rate of duty of a product, including the method used to calculate the amount of duties;
 - (b) the appropriate method or criteria and its application, to be used for determining the customs value under a particular set of facts;¹
 - (c) the fees and charges that will be applied or, where appropriate, information on the way such fees and charges are calculated;

¹ Switzerland applies customs duties based on weight or quantity rather than *ad valorem* duties.

- (d) applicable border-crossing or port-of-entry requirements for a specific product;
 - (e) the rules of origin it will apply to a product; and
 - (f) other matters as the Parties may agree.
2. If a Party declines a request for an advance ruling, the Party shall promptly notify the requesting importer, exporter, or producer or duly authorised representative in writing, setting forth the basis for the decision.
3. Advance rulings shall take effect on the date they are issued, or on another date specified by the ruling, provided that the facts or circumstances on which the ruling is based remain unchanged.
4. A Party may limit the validity of advance rulings to a period determined by the domestic laws, rules and regulations.
5. Each Party shall endeavour to make information on advance rulings publicly available, taking into account the need to protect confidential information.

Article 4

Simplification of International Trade Procedures

1. The Parties shall apply trade and border procedures that are simple, reasonable and impartial.
2. The Parties shall limit controls, formalities and the number of documents required in the context of trade in goods between the Parties to those necessary and appropriate to ensure compliance with legal requirements and thereby simplify to the greatest extent possible the respective procedures. With a view to minimising the incidence and complexity of import, export and transit formalities and to decreasing and simplifying import, export and transit documentation requirements, each Party shall ensure that such formalities and documentation requirements:
- (a) are applied with a view to a rapid release and clearance of goods;
 - (b) are applied in a manner that aims at reducing the time and cost of compliance; and
 - (c) are the least trade restrictive measure chosen.
3. The importing Party shall not require any original or copy of the export declaration from the importer.
4. The Parties shall endeavour to use efficient trade procedures, with a view to reducing costs and unnecessary delays in trade between them, based, as appropriate, on international standards, in particular the standards, guidelines and recommendations of

the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) including the principles of the *Revised International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures* (Revised Kyoto Convention), the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the *World Organization for Animal Health* and the relevant international and regional organisations operating within the framework of the *International Plant Protection Convention*.

5. Each Party shall adopt or maintain procedures that:
 - (a) provide for advance electronic submission and processing of information before the physical arrival of goods in order to expedite their clearance;
 - (b) allow importers to obtain the release of goods prior to meeting all import requirements of that Party if the importer provides sufficient guarantees and where it is decided that neither further examination, physical inspection nor any other submission is required and where such import requirements do not concern regulated and/or controlled imports;
 - (c) provide for the possibility of electronic payment for duties, taxes, fees and charges collected by customs and other border authorities; and
 - (d) allow goods intended for import to be moved within the Party under customs control from the customs office of entry to another customs office from where the goods would then be released or cleared.
6. In order to avoid deterioration of perishable goods,² each Party shall:
 - (a) provide for the rapid release of perishable goods;
 - (b) in cases of delays in the release of perishable goods, provide, upon request, an explanation of the reasons for the delay;
 - (c) give appropriate priority to perishable goods when scheduling any examinations that may be required; and
 - (d) either arrange, or allow an importer to arrange, for proper storage of perishable goods pending their release. Each Party may require that any storage facilities arranged by the importer have been approved or designated by its relevant authorities.

² For the purposes of this provision, **perishable goods** are goods that rapidly decay due to their natural characteristics, in particular in the absence of appropriate storage conditions.

Article 5

Competent Customs Offices

1. Each Party shall designate the customs offices at which goods may be presented or cleared. In determining the competence and location of these offices and their business hours, the requirements of trade shall be taken into account.
2. Each Party shall, subject to the availability of resources, perform customs controls and procedures outside the designated business hours and outside the premises of the competent customs offices if so requested by a trader for a valid reason.

Article 6

Risk Management

1. Each Party shall determine which persons, goods, or means of transport are to be examined and the extent of the examination, based on risk management.
2. In identifying and addressing risks related to the entry, exit, transit, transfer or end-use of goods moved between the customs territories of Parties, or to the presence of goods that are not in free circulation, the Parties shall systematically apply objective risk management procedures and practices.
3. Each Party's border procedures and customs controls, including its documentary examinations, physical examinations or post-audit examinations, shall not be more onerous than necessary to limit its exposure to the risks referred to in paragraph 2.

Article 7

Authorised Economic Operator System

A Party operating an Authorised Economic Operator System or security measures affecting international trade flows shall:

- (a) afford another Party the possibility to negotiate a mutual recognition agreement on authorisation and security measures for the purpose of facilitating international trade while ensuring effective customs control; and
- (b) draw on relevant international standards, in particular the *WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework)*.

Article 8

Customs Brokers

The Parties shall ensure that the domestic laws, rules and regulations regarding customs brokers are based on transparent rules. The Parties shall allow legal persons to operate with their own customs brokers, as defined in their domestic laws, rules and regulations.

Article 9

Fees and Charges

1. Fees and charges of whatever character, other than import duties and other than taxes within the purview of Article III of the GATT 1994, imposed in connection with importation or exportation, including tasks provided under Article 3 (Advanced Rulings), shall be limited in amount to the approximate cost of services rendered and shall not represent an indirect protection to domestic goods or a taxation of imports or exports for fiscal purposes.
2. The fees and charges referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be calculated on an *ad valorem* basis.
3. Each Party shall officially publish information on fees and charges on the internet, as far as practicable in English. Such information shall include the reason for the fee or charge, i.e. the service provided, the responsible authority, the fees and charges that will be applied and how they are calculated, as well as when and how payment has to be made.
4. Upon request, the customs authorities or any other competent authority of a Party shall provide information on fees and charges applicable to imports of goods into that Party, including the methods of calculation.

Article 10

Penalty Disciplines

1. Each Party shall ensure that penalties for breaches of its customs laws, rules or regulations, or procedural requirements are imposed only on the person(s) legally responsible for the breach.
2. The penalty imposed shall depend on the facts and circumstances of the case and shall be based on the culpability of the responsible person and be commensurate with the degree and severity of the breach.
3. A penalty for minor breaches, such as inadvertent omissions or mistakes, including mistakes in interpretation of customs laws, rules or regulations, without fraudulent intent or gross negligence, shall not be greater than necessary to discourage a repetition of such errors. Penalties shall not be inflicted for obvious formal errors.

4. Each Party shall ensure that when a penalty is imposed for a breach of customs laws, rules or regulations, or procedural requirements, an explanation in writing is provided to the person upon whom the penalty is imposed, specifying the nature of the breach, the basis for the penalty and instructions on the rights to appeal.
5. Each Party shall consider, as a mitigating factor, the voluntary disclosure to the competent authorities of the circumstances of a breach of customs laws, rules or regulations, or procedural requirement prior to the discovery of a breach by the authority.
6. Each Party shall specify in its domestic laws, rules and regulations a limited period within which it may initiate penalty proceedings in connection with a breach of customs laws, rules or regulations, or procedural requirement.
7. Each Party shall maintain procedures to avoid conflicts of interest in the assessment and collection of penalties ensuring that government officials do not personally benefit from any penalty or duties assessed or collected.

Article 11

Legalisation of Documents

1. A Party shall not require legalisation or other authentication, in particular consular transaction of commercial invoices, certificates of origin or other customs documentation, including related fees and charges, in connection with the importation of any goods of another Party.
2. However, in certain circumstances, such as where the customs authority of a Party doubts the veracity of the importer's declaration, and thereby challenges it, the customs authority may require as additional documentary support, the legalised, authenticated or consularised documents.

Article 12

Temporary Admission of Goods

1. Each Party shall, as provided for in their domestic laws and regulations, allow temporary admission of goods.
2. For the purposes of this Article, "temporary admission" means customs procedures under which certain goods may be brought into a customs territory conditionally relieved from payment of customs duties. Such goods shall be imported for a specific purpose, and shall be intended for re-exportation within a specified period and without having undergone any change except normal depreciation due to the use made of them.

Article 13

Inward and Outward Processing

1. Each Party shall, as provided for in their domestic laws and regulations, allow temporary importation and exportation for inward processing and outward processing.
2. For the purposes of this Article:
 - (a) **inward processing** means customs procedures under which certain goods can be brought into a customs territory conditionally relieved from payment of customs duties. Such goods must be intended for re-exportation within a specified period after having undergone manufacturing, processing or repair; and
 - (b) **outward processing** means customs procedures under which certain goods, which are in free circulation in a customs territory, may be temporarily exported for manufacturing, processing or repair abroad and then re-imported with total or partial exemption from customs duties.

Article 14

Border Agency Cooperation

Each Party shall ensure that its authorities and agencies involved in border and other import and export controls cooperate and coordinate their procedures in order to facilitate trade.

Article 15

Appeal

Each Party shall ensure that any person to whom customs or another border authority issues an administrative decision has the right to at least:

- (a) one level of independent administrative appeal, unless the administrative decision has been taken by the highest administrative entity; and
- (b) one level of independent judicial appeal.

Article 16

Confidentiality

All information provided in relation with importation, exportation, advance rulings or transit of goods, which is by nature confidential or which is provided on a confidential basis, shall not be disclosed by the Parties' authorities without the explicit permission of the person or authority providing it.

Article 17

Further Cooperation

1. The Parties may identify, and submit to the Sub-Committee on Trade in Goods for consideration, additional measures with a view to facilitating trade between them.
 2. The Parties shall promote international cooperation in relevant multilateral fora on trade facilitation. The Parties shall review relevant international initiatives in order to identify, and may submit to the Sub-Committee on Trade in Goods for consideration, further areas where joint actions could contribute to their common objectives.
 3. Upon request by a Party, another Party shall provide information for the purpose of verifying an import or export declaration in identified cases, where there is reasonable ground to doubt the truth or accuracy of a declaration. Article 12 of the *WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation* shall apply and is hereby incorporated and made part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*.
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