



CARIFORUM-EU EPA

A Partnership that Counts



The Trade Facilitation Agreement and Customs Formalities under the EPA

Chapter 4 of the EPA treats with Customs and Trade Facilitation; in particular, Article 31 indicates that the Parties' respective trade and customs legislation and procedures shall draw upon international instruments and standards applicable in the field of customs and trade. Accordingly, over the past five years, CARIFORUM States and the EU have been taking action to implement the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which seeks the simplification, harmonisation and modernisation of customs formalities to reduce the bureaucratic delays and red tape to move goods across borders. Additional information about the WTO TFA can be found at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tradfa_e/tradfa_introduction_e.htm

Implementation of the TFA requires the introduction of certain regulatory and administrative measures as well as automation of processes and procedures. CARIFORUM States have been collaborating with development partners such as the EU, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Customs Organisation, World Bank, the WTO and the International Trade Centre to mobilise financial resources, technical assistance and capacity building support to implement the necessary reforms.

Several CARIFORUM States have established National Trade Facilitation Committees to improve coordination amongst border control agencies and with private sector stakeholders.

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