WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

Fact Sheet

WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade

"International trade is the key to successful and sustainable development of the world's nations. An initiative that aims to secure this environment globally while promoting the flow of legitimate goods should receive maximum support and unconditional endorsement from all quarters."

--- Michel Danet, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization

The Premise

International trade is an essential driver for economic prosperity. The global trading system is vulnerable to terrorist exploitation that could severely damage the entire global economy. The world needs an agreed strategy to prevent terrorist abuse of the global trading system without jeopardizing the flow of trade.

In order to strengthen and go beyond existing programmes and practices, the Members of the WCO developed the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade in close consultation with all international trade stakeholders.

Implementation of the Framework would provide uniformity and predictability to the global trade environment by safeguarding the end-to-end security of the trade supply chain and facilitating the passage of legitimate goods through Customs control.

The Objectives

The Framework aims to:

- Establish standards that **provide supply chain security and facilitation to goods being traded internationally**.

- Enable **integrated supply chain management for all modes of transport**.

- **Enhance the capabilities of Customs** administrations to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

- **Strengthen networking arrangements between Customs administrations** to improve their capability to detect high-risk consignments.

- **Promote cooperation** between the **Customs and business** communities.

- **Champion** the **seamless movement of goods** through secure international trade supply chains.

1

The Core Principles

The WCO Framework was developed with four principles in mind:

- The commitment to **harmonize the advance electronic cargo information** requirement on inbound, outbound and transit shipments.

- The **application of a consistent risk management approach** to address security threats.

- The preferable **use of non-intrusive detection equipment** to effect Customs examinations of high-risk containers and cargo.

- The **provision of benefits to businesses** that meet minimum supply chain security standards and best practices.

The Pillars

The WCO Framework rests on two twin pillars:

- **Customs-to-Customs network arrangements.**

- **Custom-to-Business partnerships.**

This two-pillar strategy has many advantages: Each pillar contains a set of Standards that have been consolidated to **guarantee ease of understanding and rapid global implementation.**

The Benefits

The Framework provides a new and consolidated platform that will **enhance world trade, ensure better security against terrorism, and increase the contribution of Customs and its trade partners to the economic and social well-being of nations**. It will improve the ability of Customs officials to detect and deal with high-risk consignments and increase efficiencies in the administration of goods, thereby expediting the clearance and release of goods.

The Implementation

To facilitate the steady implementation of the Framework, the international Customs community has agreed to follow **a phased approach**. The Framework will be implemented at various stages in accordance with each administration's capacity and legislative authority. To assist this process, the WCO will endeavour to help **determine each Member's capacity building needs** and suggest possible solutions. These capacity building initiatives will also be threaded throughout by Customs integrity and training development considerations.