The Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG)

A project managed by the UNECE secretariat, with the support of a UN/CEFACT PT of experts, & funded by Sida
ABOUT THE GUIDE

Output:
• A modular guide, complemented by training materials and case stories, to available instruments that support TF implementation in a structured manner

Target:
• TF implementers and technical experts from government, businesses and international organisations
• Policy makers and high level managers

Format:
• The Guide is in electronic format, with a summary hard copy version
• The e-version is an interactive tool in a wikipedia style

Key milestones:
• Sept 2011: launch of the project
• Jan 2012: first draft
• Mar 2012: final draft
• May 2012: peer review
• Jun 2012: graphic design, editing, publication
• Sept 2012: translation into French and Russian
CONTENTS OF THE WIKI

Why
• TF Theory and Practice Overview

How
• The Generic Approach to TF

Where
• Domains:
  Businesses: Purchasing, Shipping and Transport, Customs & Cross Border management, Payment & Trade Finance
  Approaches and Methodologies: Business Process Analysis, Consultation_Collaboration, E-Trade Data Interchange

With what
• Instruments
  Conventions, Standards and Recommendations, Guides, Case Stories

Who
• Organisations
  UNECE – UN/CEFACT, UNESCAP, WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, WCO, etc.
ABSTRACT VIEW OF THE WIKI

- In its simplest form TFIG is a collection of self-contained pages
- Pages follow a template (where relevant): definition, process, relevance to TF, implementation guidance, benefits, references
NAVIGATING THE WIKI

- That users can navigate through:

  - Domains
  - Itineraries
  - Instruments
  - Organisations
Let’s think of linkages: Itineraries for establishing meaningful relationships between various wiki contents

- 1. Reducing border delays; 2. Documents simplification and data harmonisation; 3. Creating partnership with trade; 4. ICT application; 5. WTO negotiations,....
Let’s think og linkages: instruments, organisations, case stories, further readings,
Welcome to the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide
**Domains:**

**Cross-Border Purchasing, Payment and Trade Finance**
This area focuses on basic Purchasing and Payment facilitation mechanisms available to a wide variety of public and private stakeholders for the unencumbered acquisition of commercially available products in cross-border trade. Cross-Border Purchasing also addresses restrictive practices, transparency and anti-corruption initiatives. A summary of links to various organisations providing dispute resolution, financing assistance and guidance to strengthen procurement systems is included.

[See more...](#)

**Cross-border Management and Customs**
Cross-border Management and Customs addresses a wide range of trade facilitation measures and issues aiming at greater predictability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of government services and regulations with regard to the clearance of import, export and transit transactions across international borders. In addition to Customs clearance related aspects, this domain also covers trade facilitation measures relating to cross-border management and supply chain security.

[See more...](#)

**e-Trade Data Interchange**
covers aspects related to the interchange of Cross Border Trade Data including document simplification, data harmonisation, Data Models and related standards to allow interoperability between Trade and Cross Border Agencies.

[See more...](#)

**Shipping and Transport**
Shipping and Transport addresses trade facilitation measures and issues around the organisation and physical movement of goods and services.

**Business Process Analysis**
Business Process Analysis may be used to support the achievement of the goals of a trade facilitation project by providing a

**Consultation and Cooperation**
Consultation and Cooperation addresses the need for a framework of public-public cooperation and trade-government consultation over
Context of TF negotiations

Trade facilitation has been included in the agenda of the WTO at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore in 1996. The issue has gained importance against the background of a changing economic context, specifically the expansion of trade flows. WTO members were also seeking to address a perceived gap in the existing regulatory framework when it comes to the objective of trade facilitation, and strive for a deeper integration of the multilateral trading system.

Changing trade patterns

Trade facilitation has gained increasing attention at the WTO in the 90’s. Driven by trade liberalization and tariff reduction obtained by the GATT and other economic reforms in the 80’s-90’s, trade flows expanded and became more global with the integration of many developing countries into the production networks. Tariff levels and quota systems were no longer perceived as the main barrier to trade and the attention shifted to non-tariff measures and domestic policies that impact international trade. Border controls, administrative procedures and documentary requirements are such non-tariff trade barriers.
Trade Facilitation Instruments:

In their trade facilitation efforts, countries might use and refer to international instruments or best practices as guidance and source of inspiration. These instruments vary in legal nature and membership. For the purpose of this guide they are categorized into the following four categories:

- **Conventions**: Conventions with legal binding force
- **Recommendations and Standards**: Recommendations and Standards with non legal binding force: They serve the purpose of providing information on technical matters to encourage countries or other parties to take appropriate action.
- **Guidelines and guides**: Guidelines and guides with non legal binding force: They serve the purpose of providing information on technical matters to encourage countries or other parties to take appropriate action.
- **Compilations, case studies, and best practices**: This final category provides information to deepen the understanding of a particular matter in an applied context.

(foothe note: based on the proposed hierarchy on TF instruments discussed in the chapter "Reform instruments, tools, and best practice approaches" of the World Bank Trade Management Modernization publication.)
The training package:
• Developed for workshops based on TFIG
• Serves as a guiding template for a three day workshop on the guide

Target:
• International/national experts training on TF
• Users of the guide

Learning objectives:
• Analyse learning needs
• Develop training sessions
• Use participatory knowledge sharing methodologies
• Valuate achieved learning results and track impact

Complementary tools:
• A three days workshop agenda
• A cover letter to address the participants before the workshop
• A learning needs analysis tool
• A facilitator's notes checklist
• Powerpoint presentations based on domains and itineraries
MANAGING THE PROJECT

Management Framework
- UNECE secretariat manages the project
- UN/CEFACT PT provides technical advice
- A group of 7 consultants, coordinated by a lead technical consultant, drafts the contents
- The ITC ILO for the web layout and functionalities, for instructional design and for facilitating the workshops

Working methodology
- A project wikispace for sharing project documents, instructions and templates and for joint drafting
- Two workshops for defining the guide architecture and contents linkages
- Teleconferences (webex) on a regular basis

What’s next
- Launch and promotion of the Guide
- Use of the Guide in capacity building activities (e.g. regional workshops in 2012/2013)
- Maintenance/update of the Guide contents
Thank you!

For more info:
Tom Butterly and Maria Teresa Pisani
Global Trade Solutions Section, UNECE

www.unece.org/trade
Maria-Teresa.Pisani@unece.org