Relation between the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, the TIR Convention and other legal instruments.
World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Adopted in 2014
- Not yet into force

Sets forth a series of measures for expediting the movement of goods across borders

Implementation starts soon.

Developed countries → upon entry into force
Developing countries
- Category A
- Category B
- Category C

Least-developed countries
- Category A
- Category B
- Category C

Date to be determined
Entry into force + 1 year
World Trade Organization

Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

facilitate trade

United Nations

TIR

Harmonization Convention

facilitate transit

harmonize border controls

trade facilitation + border crossing facilitation

Authorized Operators

Art. 11

Transit

Rapid Release Time

Art. 12

TIR

Electronic Documents

Art. 1

Advanced Information

Common Border Procedures

Export

Inspections

NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Art. 10

ENHANCED CONTROLS

Restrictions

BORDER HOURS

CLEARANCE OF GOODS

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

INTEGRATED SYSTEMS

TRADE STANDARDS

IMPORT

Prohibitions

Priority Consignments

Art. 7

BORDER AGENCY COOPERATION

Perishable Goods

Art. 8

Art. 9

COMPARATIVE TABLE
### World Trade Organization (TFA)

**Art. 11.9** Members shall allow and provide for advance filling and processing of transit documentation and data prior to the arrival of goods.

### United Nations 

**TIR**

**Art. 19** The goods and the road vehicle, the combination of vehicles or the container shall be produced with the TIR Carnet at the Customs office of departure.

**Harmonization Convention**

**Annex 9 (rail), art. 8** The contracting Parties shall endeavour to provide the customs authorities in advance with information on goods arriving at border (interchange) station...

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### Example 1

**World Trade Organization (TFA)**

**Art. 7 (4.3)** Each Member shall concentrate customs control and, to the extent possible other relevant border controls, on high-risk consignments and expedite the release of low-risk consignments...

### Example 2

#### United Nations

**TIR**

**Art. 5** Goods carried under the TIR procedure in sealed road vehicles, combinations of vehicles or containers shall not as a general rule be subject to examination at Customs offices en route...

**Harmonization Convention**

**Art. 2** In order to facilitate the international movement of goods, this Convention aims at reducing the requirements for completing formalities as well as the number and duration of controls...
UN agreements provide for a practical and coordinated implementation of the TEA.

World Trade Organization
Trade Facilitation Agreement

Art. 1: Publication and availability of information.
Art. 5: Other measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination and transparency.
Art. 7: Clearance of goods.
Art. 8: Border agency cooperation.
Art. 9: Movement of goods intended for import under customs control.
Art. 10: Formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit.
Art. 11: Freedom of transit.
Art. 12: Customs cooperation.

United Nations
TIR
Harmonization Convention

World Customs Organization
Kyoto Convention

how?
challenges

- lack of awareness
- limited geographic scope
- insufficient coordination

opportunities

- training
- geographic expansion
- coordinated strategies