Relation between the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, the TIR Convention and other legal instruments.

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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 → date to be determined
Least-developed countries → 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

Art. 1
TIR
Art. 7
Harmonization Convention

Art. 10
Enhanced controls restrictions

Art. 11
Transit

Art. 12
Reduced formalities

Art. 5
BORDER CROSSING FACILITATION

Art. 8
Prohibitions

Art. 9
Priority consignments

COMPARATIVE TABLE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Trade Organization</th>
<th>United Nations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIR Convention</td>
<td>Harmonization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art. 11.9 Members shall allow and provide for advance filling and processing of transit documentation and data prior to the arrival of goods.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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...</td>
<td>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...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Nations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIR Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Trade Organization</th>
<th>TIR Convention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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...</td>
<td>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...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

- National implementation
- National implementation
- National implementation
challenges

- lack of awareness
- limited geographic scope
- insufficient coordination

opportunities

- training
- geographic expansion
- coordinated strategies
The UNITED NATIONS Transport Conventions on Border Crossing Facilitation

Benefits for governments

Two United Nations Conventions

TIR

Harmonization Convention

Advantages

More Trade

Integrated and smooth transport

Simplified customs and border procedures

Transport and logistics cost savings

Intelligent Borders

Faster, safer, and more efficient crossings

Enforced and controlled borders

Eases movement of goods and people

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