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Committee on Trade Facilitation

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**NOTIFICATION OF CATEGORY COMMITMENTS UNDER  
THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION**

COMMUNICATION FROM LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

*Addendum*

The following communication, of which the first draft was received 23 July 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic for Members' information.

Following up on the notification dated 2 March 2018 (G/TFA/N/LAO/1), Lao People's Democratic Republic hereby makes the following notifications:

(1) Shifting of categories; and (2) notification of technical assistance and capacity building support needs for its category C commitments.

1. Lao People's Democratic Republic hereby notifies that the following provision has been shifted between categories.

Provision	Heading/Description	Category previously notified as	Category shifted to
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	C	B

For ease of reference, Lao PDR's full list of category commitments are summarized in the table as attached herewith.

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Definitive date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation (for category C)
<b>Article 1 Publication and Availability of Information</b>					
Article 1.1	Publication	A	-	-	-
Article 1.2	Information Available through Internet	A	-	-	-
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	A	-	-	-
Article 1.4	Notification	A	-	-	-
<b>Article 2 Opportunity to Comment, Information before Entry into Force and Consultations</b>					
Article 2.1	Opportunity to Comment and Information Before Entry into Force	B	31 December 2020	To be determined	-
Article 2.2	Consultations	B	31 December 2020	To be determined	-
<b>Article 3 Advance Rulings</b>					
		C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for Lao Customs Department (LCD) to help it review and amend the Customs Law and relevant procedures, for expanding the scope of Advance Ruling scheme in operation, in order to include issues relating to valuation & duty exemptions in line with the TFA provisions and to help in the capacity building of government officials and members of trade for making effective use of this facility.
<b>Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review</b>					
		A	-	-	-
<b>Article 5 Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-Discrimination and Transparency</b>					
Article 5.1	Notification for Enhanced Controls or Inspections	A	-	-	-
Article 5.2	Detention	A	-	-	-
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for the Customs Department, Food & Drugs Department (FDD), Agriculture and Department of Standardization & Metrology (DOSM) to help them insert suitable provisions in respective laws to allow drawing of samples for second test in accredited laboratories and consideration of the second test report/analysis as per the TFA provisions. The TA is also expected to help them identify accredited laboratories and build capacity of the government officials and members of the trade to make use of this opportunity.

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Definitive date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation (for category C)
<b>Article 6 Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation and Penalties</b>					
Article 6.1	General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	B	31 December 2020	To be determined	-
Article 6.2	Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	A	-	-	-
Article 6.3	Penalty Disciplines	B	31 December 2020	To be determined	-
<b>Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods</b>					
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	A	-	-	-
Article 7.2	Electronic Payment	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	The international TA and national expert needed to help the Department of Agriculture to draft technical regulations, guidelines and SOPs for setting up a facility for electronic payment of inspection fees, test analysis fees, phyto-certificate fees and other charges at its central and provincial offices.
Article 7.3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	B	31 December 2020	To be determined	-
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for Customs, Food & Drugs and plant quarantine departments to help in building an integrated risk management framework in collaboration with other border agencies and in developing composite risk profiles using their inputs in the customs selectivity module. The TA will also help those agencies in establishing their respective risk management units and organizing training workshops for their capacity building.

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Definitive date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation (for category C)
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for Customs, Food & Drugs Department (FDD), Department of Agriculture and the Department of Standardization & Metrology (DOSM) to help them insert suitable provisions in respective laws to allow drawing of samples for second test and consideration of the second test report as per the TFA provisions. It will also help them identify accredited laboratories in the region & elsewhere and build capacity of the government officials and members of trade to make use of this opportunity
Article 7.6.	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	Project support for Customs Department that has been conducting time-release studies periodically to organize training workshops in provinces for capacity building of Customs, Food & Drugs and quarantine officials at the border to take part in the next TRS for data collection and also to expand its scope to include off-border documentary compliance.
Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for Customs to help in the capacity building of its officials, especially to organize a field visit of select number of officials to a country with developed scheme of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) collaborations, such as South Korea, Thailand, New Zealand or India.
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for Customs to devise detailed procedure for expedited shipment by air, especially those consignments that are falling above the <i>de-minimus</i> threshold to ensure their quick clearance with adequate regulatory controls. Support also needed for capacity building of officials and trade in this regard.
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	B	31 December 2020	To be determined	-
<b>Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation</b>					
		C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for Customs to evolve a common national framework, a new border management model (BMM) in collaboration

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					with other border agencies, like quarantine and food & drugs etc. for joint inspection at border crossings. TA will also be needed for sharing common facilities and joint controls in cooperation with cross-border counterparts, particularly for rolling out Single Stop Inspection at the major crossings. Support also needed for capacity building of officials for implementing the purposed border management model.
<b>Article 9 Movement of Goods Intended for Import under Customs Control</b>					
		A	-	-	-
<b>Article 10 Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit</b>					
Article 10.1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for the Department of Agriculture to review its procedural formalities and documentation requirements for expediting clearance process, particularly for perishable goods. Customs Department needs project support, to improve ASYCUDA procedure to enable centralized processing of declarations and for developing a Service Charter, with mechanism for regular monitoring and performance evaluation by its internal Audit. Assistance is also required by the Department of Import & Export for rolling out its e-CO (Electronic Certificate of Origin) facility to provinces and upgrading its trade data collection & dissemination system. Support also needed for capacity building of government personnel engaged in these tasks.
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	B	31 December 2022	To be determined	-
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for Customs Department, Department of Import & Export, Food & Drugs Department, Department of Agriculture and Department of Standards & Metrology to revise their laws and procedures for complying with international standards. Customs Department also needs support for organizing workshops with other stakeholders

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					for generating awareness about these changes.
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	International TA for Department of Agriculture to develop suitable procedures and build department's capacity for joining the Lao National Single Window being launched that may cover import of agricultural products, fertilizers and pesticides etc. in the near future.
Article 10.5	Pre-shipment Inspection	A	-	-	-
Article 10.6	Use of Customs Brokers	A	-	-	-
Article 10.7	Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	Lao PDR required support on the following activities: a) Regular study and review of procedures and documentation requirements of border agencies, like the Department of Food & Drugs and Department of Agriculture (Plant & Animal Quarantine departments) to ensure that common border procedures and documentation requirements are followed throughout the country; b) Development of monitoring mechanism for ensuring common border procedures and documentation, and c) Capacity building of the staffs of these agencies for implementing above changes.
Article 10.8	Rejected Goods	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	Lao PDR required support on the following activities: a) Revision of laws and procedures of non-Customs agencies for complying with the TFA provisions; b) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above changes.
Article 10.9	Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	A	-	-	-
<b>Article 11 Freedom of Transit</b>					
		C	31 December 2022	To be determined	Lao PDR required support on the following activities:

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					a) Development of simplified procedures by non-customs agencies for seamless transit of goods across ASEAN by road, rail, and multi-modal means of transport; b) Capacity building of the staff of these agencies for implementing above changes.
<b>Article 12 Customs Cooperation</b>					
		C	31 December 2022	To be determined	Lao Customs Department has signed mutual cooperation agreements with customs administrations of neighbouring countries and needs international TA for developing requisite protocols capacity building of its officials to operationalize data exchange arrangement, especially with Thailand and China, its largest trading partners.