

REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND

MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEVELOPMENT MINISTER OFFICE

REF: WHM/02/08-01/ 1524 /2019

Date: 20/08/2019

Ministerial Decree

Goods Declaration by Traders

- Having seen: The definition of 'Customs declaration' under Section 4 (21) of the Somaliland Customs Law No. 73/2016;
- Having seen: The conditions for Customs declarations under Sections 59, 60, 61 and 62 of the Customs Law;
- Having seen: That non-disclosure of all information which is provided on a confidential basis shall be covered by the duty of professional secrecy under Section 15 of the Customs Law;
- Having recognised: That the Somaliland Customs Law No. 73/2016 and international standards under the World Customs Organisation clearly lay the responsibility for making a Customs Declaration on the trader or his/her representative;
- Having considered: Implementation of a customs declaration process is one of the critical initiatives in the Somaliland customs reform and modernisation programme;
- Having considered: Standard Operating Procedures, Guidance Notes for the completion of Goods Declaration Forms, and a flowchart of the process have been approved by the Somaliland Customs Administration in preparation for the implementation of the process;
- Having considered: The Customs Administration has designed a Goods Declaration Form which has undergone successful trial periods at Egal International Airport (EIA) and Berbera Port;
- Having found that: Implementing reforms in line with international standards and the Law will encourage transparency in the Customs Administration;
- Having found that: Declaration will provide benefits to traders including predictability of Customs approach through standardised documents and clearance procedures; increased efficiencies (documentation can be completed by traders prior to arrival of goods);

I have decreed that:

1. Goods Declaration Forms (GDF) will be completed by traders, or their representatives, and submitted to Customs before presentation of the goods to Customs for examination.
2. In addition to the submission of the GDF, traders will be required to submit trade documents, including invoices, that will provide Customs with detailed information of the goods imported; including the value, classification and origin of the goods. The following documents are to be presented with the GDF:
 - Delivery Order;
 - Detailed final commercial invoice;
 - Freight invoice (if costs not shown on final commercial invoice);
 - Packing List;
 - Bill of Lading/Air Waybill/Consignment Note (Road Transport);
 - Ministry of Trade Licence
3. Until further instruction, values for the goods will continue to be taken from the Customs Valuation Book, and invoices will be used to develop accurate trade statistics.
4. There can be no excuses for not presenting invoices when declaring commercial goods to Customs. The non-production of invoices may result in the refusal by Customs to accept the declaration. A commercial invoice must have the following details:
 - Full name and address of the seller;
 - Full name and address of the buyer;
 - Number and date of issue of commercial invoice;
 - Full description of goods;
 - Quantity of the goods;
 - Price of goods (article specific unit price and total price of the consignment) and currency.
5. The goods declaration process will be implemented at all Customs stations in Somaliland from the 01/10/2019.

Note: references to presentation of commercial and freight invoices will not come into effect at present.



Dr. Saad Ali Shire
Minister, Ministry of Finance and Development

