

STANDARDISED EXPORT PROCEDURES IN SOMALILAND

The Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance Development (MoFD) has approved a new export declaration procedure at all customs stations at the ports, airports and land border crossings with the aim of modernising and reforming the clearance process in line with the legal requirement of the Customs Act 73/2016.

The new export procedures introduces a goods self-declaration process, which enables Somaliland to move from a system that relies on customs officers completing an examination/declaration form to self-declaration by the owner or his/her own agent in accordance with the law.

The new export procedures demonstrate the MoFD's commitment to modernise the goods declaration system in Somaliland, from the introduction of the Single Administrative Document (SAD) and the implementation of the Goods Declaration Process (GDP) for imports. The standardised export procedures have been designed to simplify the export process, using an Export Goods Declaration Form (EGDF), and completing the declaration on the SAD form through the Customs Management System (CMS) to improve reporting and statistical information.

In addition to the completion and submission of the goods declaration form for exports, the new process requires that traders also present trade documents such as invoices, airway bills/bills of lading and all other documents that provide Customs with detailed information on the goods exported.

Traders are responsible for the completion of the EGDF to make a declaration to Customs. Customs will continue to identify the classification and value of the goods from the Customs Valuation Book.

Self-declaration allows Customs to use modern methods such as risk management, which will reduce the extent to which businesses need to deal with Customs for most shipments, which are unproblematic. Customs will continually work with Somaliland private sector to implement other trade facilitation measures to ease the goods declaration processes for business.

Once in full use, the benefits of the introduction of the standardised export procedures in Somaliland are:

- Compliance with the law and international best practice
- Standardised approach to clearance
- Improved accuracy of trade statistics
- Data collection for risk management

In time, it is hoped that the owner/agent will have the option to either make a declaration at the customs' office or complete the declaration electronically from his/her own premises.

More information on the new standardised export process and the EGDF are available to the public on the Ministry of Finance Development's website (<http://slmof.org/>).

For any enquiries, please visit your nearest Customs Office.