

Trade facilitation: ITC publications



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The International Trade Centre (ITC) has many publications to help businesses and policymakers make the most of important agreements to break down trade barriers. Among them are insights on the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement and the WTO Information Technology Agreement.

They are free on ITC's online publications catalogue, sometimes in several languages: <http://www.intracen.org/publications>



[**A Business Guide to the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement**](#)

This reference guide provides insights into the business implications of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, a pillar in the move towards a border-free Africa.

To help businesses bring their voice to the process, the guide provides context for the agreement, highlights on protocols, and the way forward for trade in goods and services as well as for subsequent negotiation areas that include investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy.

Published: 2018
Available in: English

ITC publications on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

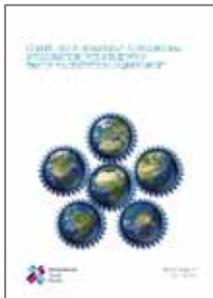


[**Faster customs, faster trade: Using technology for trade facilitation**](#)

This report offers policy advice to explore synergies between the WTO Trade Facilitation and Information Technology Agreements. Used well, policymakers can set in motion technology-based national trade facilitation reforms, especially for customs processes.

Produced in cooperation with Huawei Technologies, the report encourages the use of ICT tools and schemes such as the Authorized Economic Operator.

Published: 2018
Available in: English



[**Charting a roadmap to regional integration with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**](#)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can benefit more if the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement is implemented in a coordinated manner at regional level.

This report charts a roadmap for regional policy frameworks on trade facilitation to boost intraregional trade, reduce bottlenecks and increase the participation of SMEs in regional value chains.

Published: 2017
Available in: English



[**WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement – A Business Guide for Developing Countries**](#)

This jargon-free guide explains the provisions with a focus on what businesses need to know. It also helps policymakers identify needs for technical assistance to implement and monitor it.

Published: 2013
Available in: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Arabic and Russian



[National Trade Facilitation Committees](#)

Developing countries can benefit from trade facilitation reforms by establishing a well-run National Trade Facilitation Committee.

This guide gives developing countries a systematic approach to evaluate policy, organizational and funding options to create a detailed roadmap to set up National Trade Facilitation Committees – an obligation for countries implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. This is a joint guide by ITC, UNCTAD and UNECE, including UN/CEFACT.

Published: 2015
Available in: English, French and Spanish



[SMEs and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement](#)

Businesses extend their reach by understanding how to make the most of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

This guide enables businesses to make border clearance faster, simpler and cheaper; resolve customs disputes fairly; obtain information on regulations and customs procedures easily; and become trusted partners of the government in implementing and monitoring trade facilitation reforms. As a training manual, it has clear descriptions and practical exercises.

Published: 2015
Available in: English, French and Spanish



[Making the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Work for SMEs](#)

This joint UNESCAP-ITC report advocates mainstreaming trade facilitation in development strategies for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

It highlights the potential for SME centres to share information on trade procedures, organize trade facilitation consultations and provide other services to help SMEs take advantage of this agreement. The report contains relevant provisions for SMEs, and suggestions for implementation.

Published: 2016
Available in: English



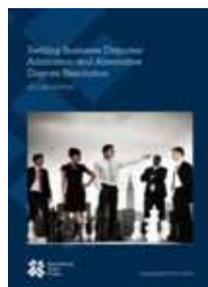
[Reforming logistics services for effective trade facilitation](#)

Difficult customs procedures, barriers to investment, and labour regulations are the most stringent obstacles for logistics services providers in developing countries.

This study finds that policymakers need to respond to traders' concerns by promoting the coordination between key stakeholders and public-private dialogue. The report offers practical guidance for policymakers and logistics services providers to drive regulatory reforms in the sector.

Published: 2017
Available in English

More ITC publications that facilitate trade across borders



[Settling Business Disputes: Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution](#)

By integrating mediation and arbitration clauses into their international contracts, small firms can better protect themselves.

Small firms venture into new markets with different languages, cultures and legal systems. This overview of traditional and alternative dispute resolution options has cases targeted to SMEs in developing countries.

Published: 2016
Available in English, French and Spanish



[Model Contracts for Small Firms](#)

Most small firms do not have access to the legal advice they need when it comes to trading with all corners of the world.

To meet this challenge, trade lawyers around the world worked pro-bono to create these model contracts that address the sophistication of international trade transactions, internationally recognized standards and best practices, and still make things as simple as they can be in a global context.

Published: 2011
Available in English, French and Spanish



[Bringing SMEs onto the e-Commerce Highway](#)

This report is a starting point for public-private dialogue to address e-commerce bottlenecks, especially for small firms in developing countries.

Small firms face policy challenges in four processes typical to all e-commerce: establishing online business, international e-payment, international delivery and aftersales. The report provides policy guidance checklists and case studies from e-commerce entrepreneurs in developing countries.

Published: 2016
Available in English



[SME Competitiveness Outlook: Meeting the Standard for Trade](#)

Standards and regulations have a major impact on SME competitiveness.

In analysing how SMEs can meet the standard for trade, the report touches on important trade facilitation topics, such as how procedural obstacles affect women, improving coordination at the border, insights on the WTO Trade Facilitation agreement, the value of public-private dialogue and more. It has business views on procedural and regulatory trade obstacles for 35 developing countries.

Published: 2016
Available in English, French and Spanish



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