Article 4.6: Enquiry Points

Each Party shall designate one or more enquiry points to answer reasonable enquiries of interested persons concerning customs matters and to facilitate access to forms and documents required for importation, exportation, and transit.

Article 4.7: Customs Procedures

1. Each Party shall ensure that its customs procedures and practices are predictable, consistent, and transparent, and facilitate trade, including through the expeditious clearance of goods.

2. Each Party shall ensure that its customs procedures, where possible and to the extent permitted by its customs laws and regulations, conform with the standards and recommended practices of the World Customs Organization.

3. The customs authority of each Party shall review its customs procedures with a view to simplifying such procedures to facilitate trade.

Article 4.8: Preshipment Inspection

1. Each Party shall not require the use of preshipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation.

2. Without prejudice to the rights of any Party to use other types of preshipment inspection not covered by paragraph 1, each Party is encouraged not to introduce or apply new requirements regarding their use.

3. Paragraph 2 refers to preshipment inspections covered by the Preshipment Inspection Agreement, and does not preclude preshipment inspections for sanitary and phytosanitary purposes.

Article 4.9: Pre-arrival Processing

1. Each Party shall adopt or maintain procedures allowing for the submission of documents and other information required for the importation of goods, in order to begin processing prior to the arrival of goods with a view to expediting the release of goods upon arrival.

2. Each Party shall provide, as appropriate, for advance lodging of documents and other information referred to in paragraph 1 in electronic format for pre-arrival processing of such documents.

Article 4.10: Advance Rulings

1. Each Party shall, prior to the importation of a good from a Party into its territory, issue a written advance ruling to an importer, exporter, or any person with a justifiable cause, or a representative thereof, who has submitted a written request containing all necessary information, with regard to:

   (a) tariff classification;

   (b) whether the good is an originating good in accordance with Chapter 3 (Rules of Origin);

   (c) the appropriate method or criteria, and the application thereof, to be used for determining the customs value under a particular set of facts, in accordance with the Customs Valuation Agreement; and

   (d) such other matters as the Parties may agree.

2. A Party may require that an applicant have legal representation or registration in that Party. To the extent possible, such requirements shall not restrict the categories of persons eligible to apply for advance rulings, with particular consideration for the specific needs of small and medium enterprises. These requirements shall be clear and transparent and not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination.[2, 3]

3. Each Party shall adopt or maintain procedures for issuing advance rulings which:

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[2] On request of a Party, the Parties may review the requirements of this paragraph in terms of their contribution towards the trade facilitation through the Committee on Goods.

[3] Each Party shall ensure that its registration process is transparent, applications are considered in a timely manner, and the decision made on an application, and the reasons for it, are promptly advised to the applicant in writing.