

Article 4.3: Release of Goods

1. Each Party shall adopt or maintain simplified customs procedures for the efficient release of goods in order to facilitate trade between the Parties and reduce costs for importers and exporters. Each Party shall ensure that its procedures:

- (a) allow for the release of goods within a period of time no longer than that required to ensure compliance with its law;
- (b) require the submission of more extensive information through post-entry accounting and verifications, as appropriate;
- (c) allow goods, and to the extent possible controlled or regulated goods, to be released at the first point of arrival;
- (d) allow, to the extent possible, for the expeditious release of goods in need of emergency clearance;
- (e) allow an importer or its agent to remove goods from customs control prior to the final determination and payment of customs duties, taxes, and fees. Before releasing the goods, a Party may require that an importer provide sufficient guarantee in the form of a surety, a deposit, or some other appropriate instrument. The guarantee shall be limited to an amount calculated to ensure compliance with a Party's requirements for customs duties, taxes and fees, and shall not represent an indirect protection of domestic products or taxation of imports for fiscal purposes; and
- (f) provide for, in accordance with its law, simplified documentation requirements for the entry of low-value goods as determined by each Party.

2. Each Party shall adopt or maintain separate customs procedures for the expedited release of express shipments. These procedures shall:

- (a) when applicable, use the World Customs Organization (WCO), *Guidelines for the Immediate Release of Consignments by Customs*, as amended;
- (b) to the extent possible or if applicable, provide for advance electronic submission and processing of information before physical arrival of express shipments to enable their release upon arrival;
- (c) to the extent possible, provide for clearance of certain goods with a minimum of documentation;
- (d) not be limited by a maximum weight; and