



MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

Customs Department, IKS Building, Port Louis
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PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Fast Track Cargo Release Facility to Qualified Tradenet Users

Mauritius Revenue Authority, Customs Department is encouraging voluntary compliance by rewarding compliant traders at Customs with a new expedited cargo clearance process known as the 'Fast Track Cargo Release Initiative'. This project, to be utilised by the Qualified Tradenet Users, has been launched on 1 August 2007 on a pilot basis. Two companies have been selected for the pilot test. This program will be extended, shortly, to other traders who will obtain the status of Qualified Tradenet Users at Customs.

How it Operates

Qualified Tradenet Users will submit only paperless (without supporting documents such as Bill of Lading, Airway Bill, Invoices, etc) import/export declarations electronically to Customs. Exceptionally, for consignments which require other government agencies clearances or for consignments which are selected for inspections, the Qualified Tradenet Users will submit hard copy of the declaration together with all supporting documents.

Paperless import/export declarations submitted electronically by Qualified Tradenet Users will be processed through a special new **BLUE CHANNEL** clearance process. With a view to expediting clearance of their goods, these declarations will not be subject to compliance, valuation check and physical inspection **prior** to their cargo release, which is the normal practice for those traders who do not have the status of Qualified Tradenet Users. Customs will assess compliance level of the Qualified Tradenet Users through periodic post-clearance audits of books and records retained at their registered office. Moreover, Qualified Tradenet Users' goods will undergo lesser random cargo inspections which may be undertaken at the importer's premises when the goods are un-stuffed from the container.

Criteria for Being Granted the Status of Qualified Tradenet User

Traders must:

- Have a proven history of compliance as determined through a customs compliance audit carried out by Customs Department.
- Agree to follow a Customs Compliance Monitoring Program
- Undergo a comprehensive pre-approval customs audit of their automated systems, internal controls and record- keeping practices
- Agree to periodic post-approval periodic audits
- Retain all original hard copy documents in an approved filing system for immediate presentation to Customs at all reasonable times
- Use the e-Payment system for all remittances to Customs
- Provide safe and secure premises for cargo un-stuffing and Customs inspection

Benefits to Qualified Tradenet Users

- Expedited customs clearance of most consignments
- Reduced trade transaction costs from faster clearance of cargo
- Reduced inventory levels
- Increased certainty
- Reduced administrative burden
- Increased cargo security due to cargo spending less time in the port or freight stations
- Increased transparency

Changes to Our e-Payment System

For the successful implementation of the project, our e-payment service has been modified to allow speedy settlement of payments. Payment will be considered as effected from the time payment instruction is sent to the bank.

Application

Interested Tradenet Users who wish to be considered as Qualified Tradenet Users should send their application form duly filled to:

**The Director,
Customs Department,
Mauritius Revenue Authority,
3rd Floor, IKS Building,
Trou Fanfaron,
Port Louis**

Application forms may be downloaded from the MRA website on <http://mra.gov.mu> or may be collected from: **Registry Section, Customs Department, 3rd Floor, IKS Building, Trou Fanfaron, Port Louis.**

07 August 2007

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