

FOREWORD

Today's international supply chains face an increasingly competitive environment, with new product safety regulations, and intense border security concerns. The need for traders to comply with all procedural, regulatory, and documentary requirements rapidly, accurately and cheaply has become extremely important in order to remain competitive. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of processes and information flows throughout the supply chain, it is crucial that the existing "as-is" conditions are well understood, prior to implementing trade facilitation reforms. Adapted from the business process modeling techniques that have been originally applied in the automation of mechanistic business processes, this Business Process Analysis Guide to Simplify Trade Procedures (BPA Guide) aims to provide a simple methodology to document the "as-is" business processes in international trade transactions. The BPA Guide also shares valuable country experiences and lessons learned in this area. Insights about existing processes and procedures in trade would provide senior government officials with crucial information on where improvements are necessary.

It is our hope that this BPA Guide will serve government officials as an instrument that facilitates the identification of bottlenecks in trade processes and procedures, prioritization of areas for improvement, and the design of strategies to eliminate these bottlenecks. Ultimately, business process analysis can bring about greater transparency, improved efficiency, and greater capacity to innovate, which are in turn the keys to remaining competitive in today's international markets.



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