Dematerialization of Supporting Documents

Activities of WCO

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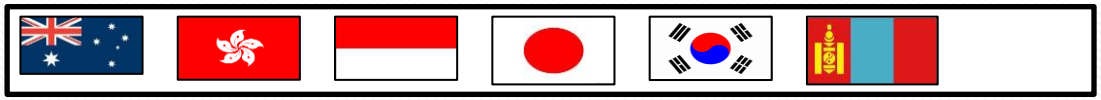
WCO's Survey on dematerialization

- ✓- Information Management Sub-Committee (IMSC)
- ✓89 questions on current practices on supporting documents
- ✓51 Members replied

ESA

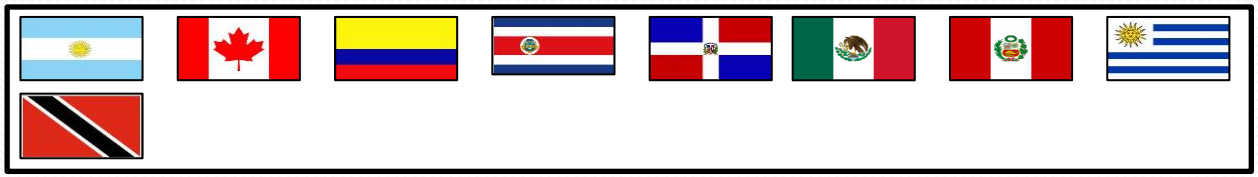
Europe

A-P

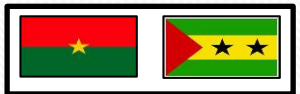


MENA

Americas



WCA



What are Supporting Documents?

Commercial document:

Commercial invoice, Packing list, Proforma invoice, Purchase order, Product specification, etc.

Transport documents:

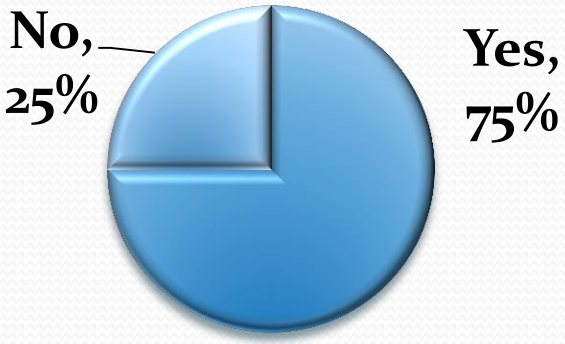
Master bill of landing, Airway bill, Master air waybill, Multimodal way bill, Multimodal Bill of landing, Road consignment note, etc.

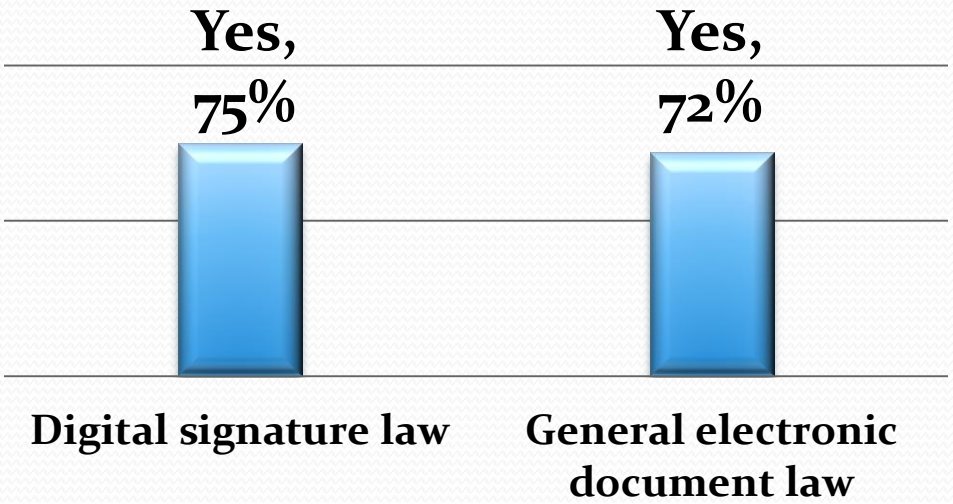
Regulatory documents:

Export licence, Import licence,
Inspection certificate(sanitary, CITES, veterinary etc.),
ATA Carnet, TIR Carnet, Value Declarations,
Certificate of origin, etc.

Key Finding 1: Dematerialization is agenda

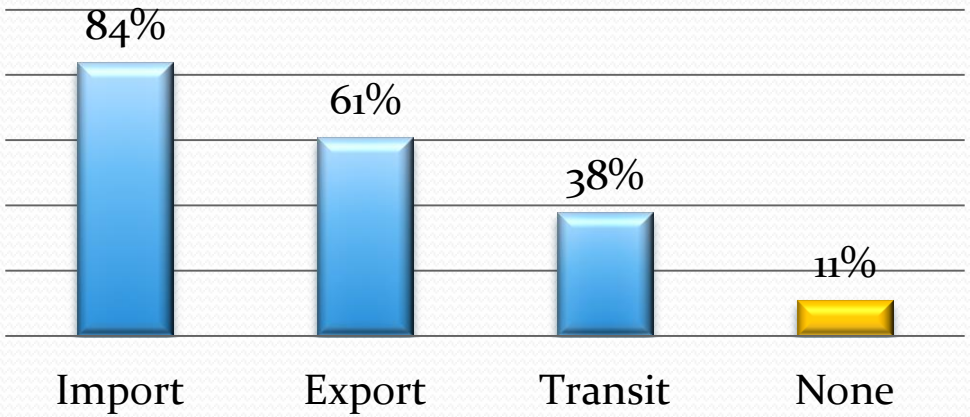
Majority of Customs respondents considered digitization of supporting documents as agenda





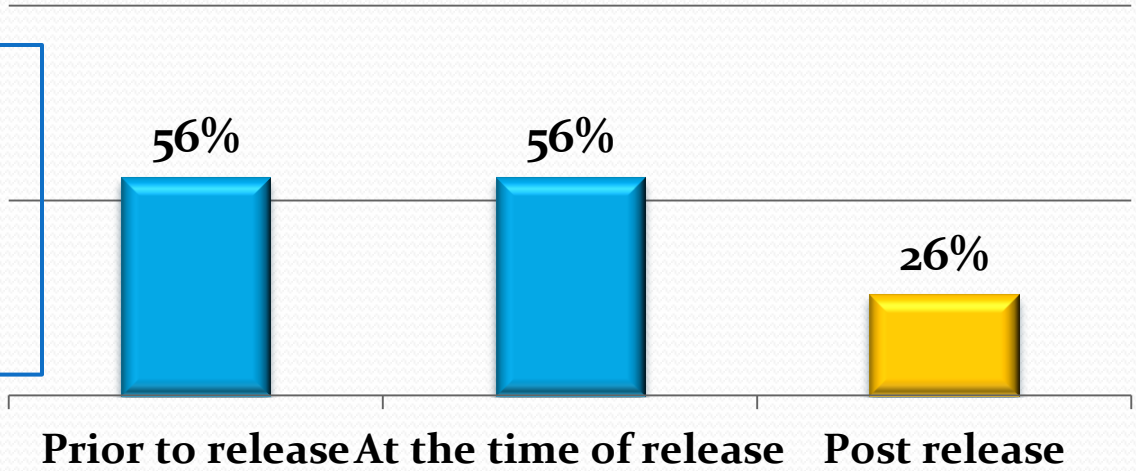
For most respondents, basic legal framework is in place

Key Finding 2: Customs requirement

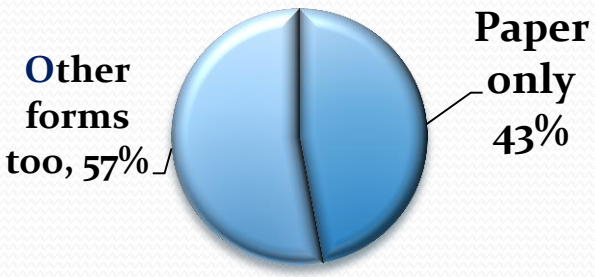


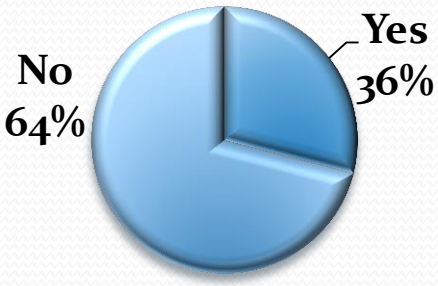
Many respondents require supporting documents but some do not demand

Majority of respondents require supporting documents before release of cargo



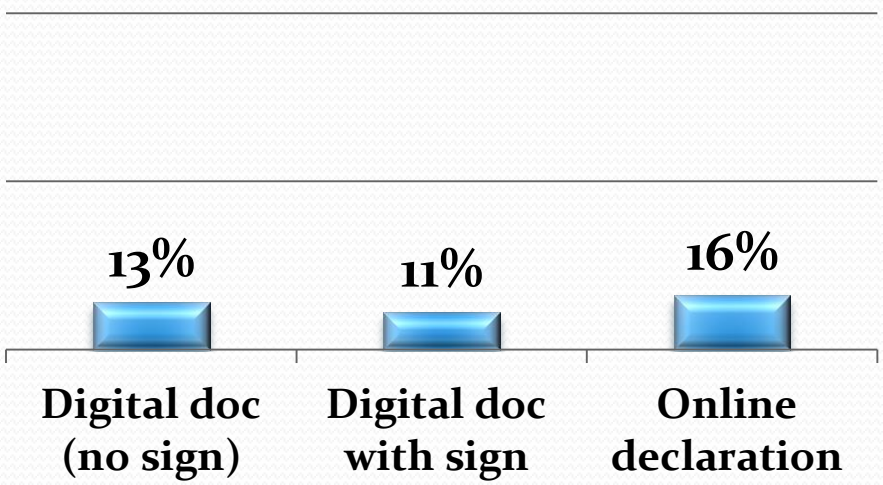
Key Finding 3 : Acceptable forms





43% of respondents take ***only*** paper documents

Some respondents accept scanned documents

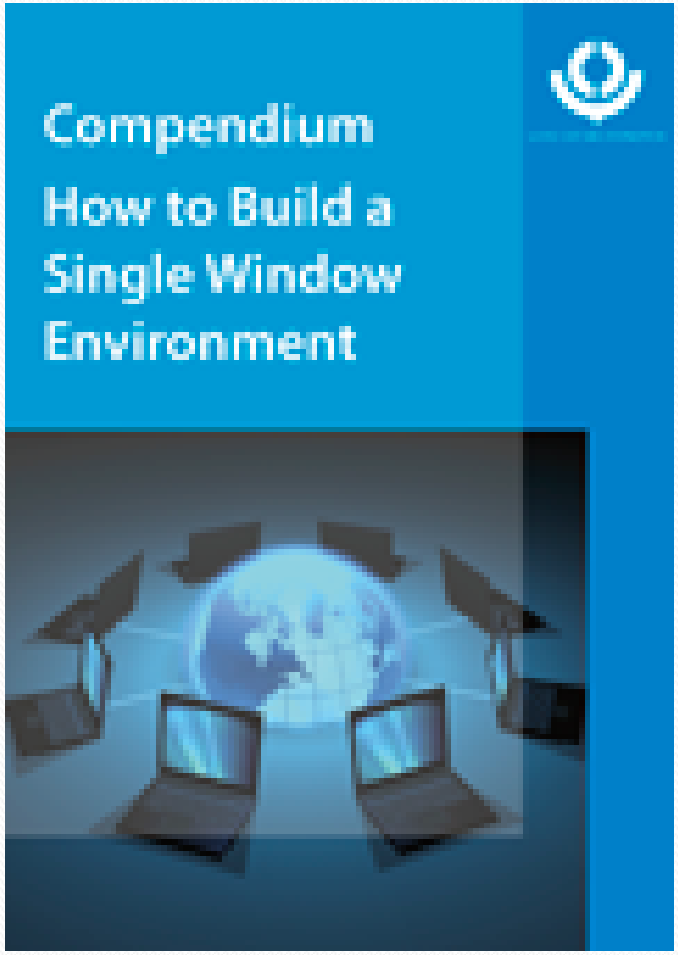


Only a few respondents allow other digital forms

Key Finding 4 : Dematerialization in Progress

	Fully Implemented	Pilot available
Commercial Invoice	Canada, Costa Rica, Japan, South Africa, UK	Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, France, Korea, Mozambique, Netherlands, Peru, Ukraine, Uruguay
Packing List	Japan, South Africa	Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Yemen
Transport Documents	Canada, South Africa	Burkina Faso, Korea, Mozambique, Ukraine, Uruguay
Certificate of Origin		Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, Germany, Japan, Korea, Mozambique, Uruguay
Certificate of Inspections	Colombia, France, Japan, Korea	Burkina Faso, Peru, Uruguay

WCO Single Window Compendium

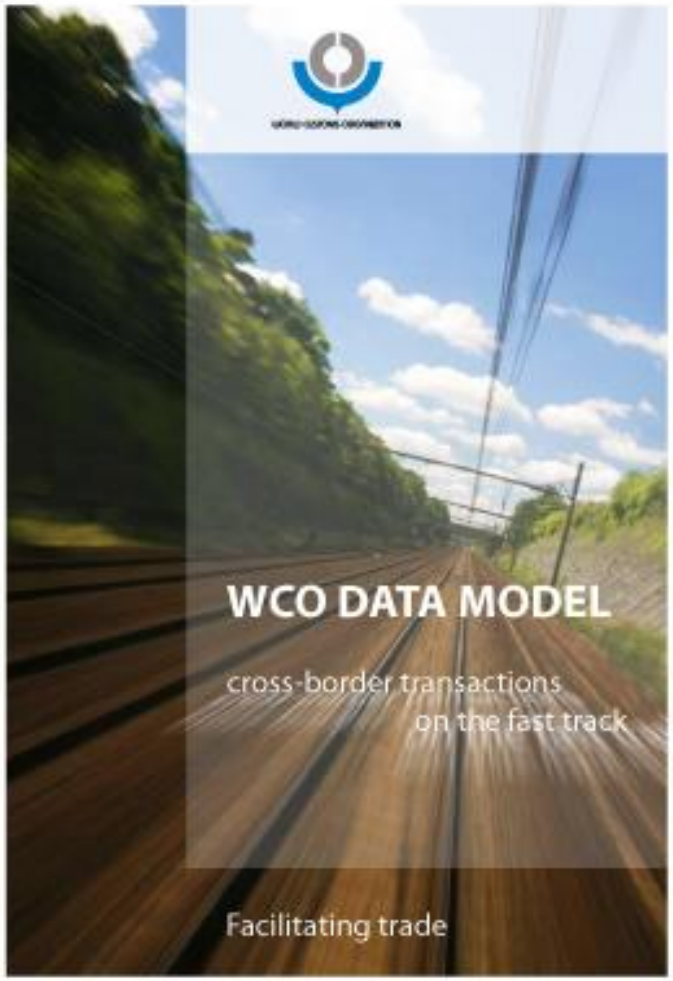


The WCO Compendium on How to Build a Single Window (Single Window Compendium) contains a chapter on the guidelines for achieving dematerialization.

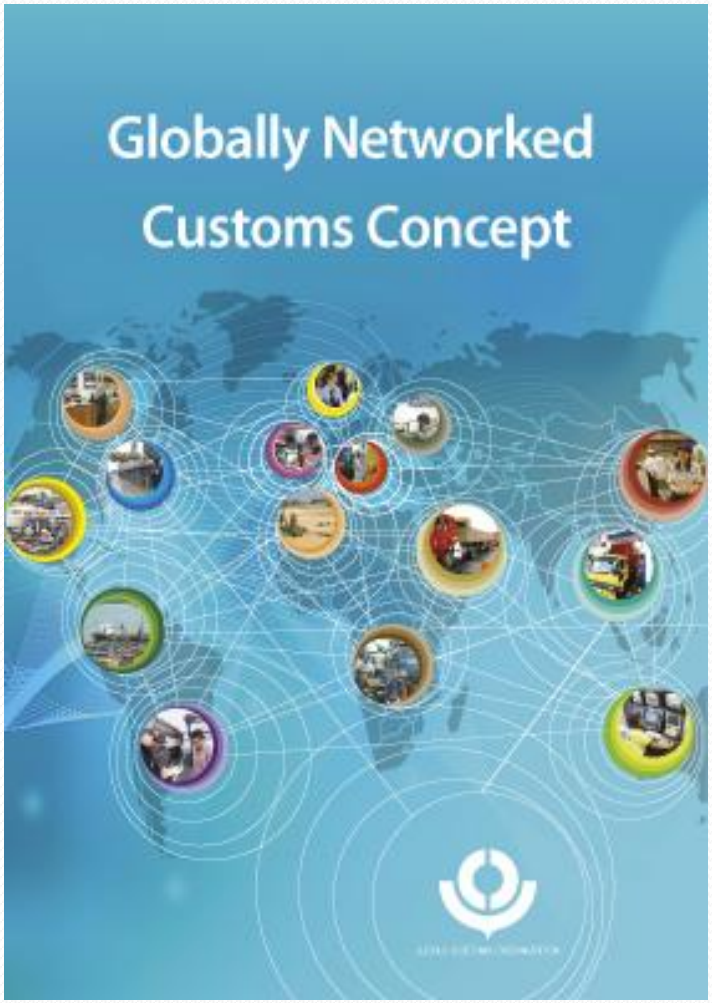
WCO Data Model

The WCO Data Model is a set of carefully combined data requirements that are mutually supportive and which will be updated on a regular basis to meet the procedural and legal needs of cross-border regulatory agencies such as Customs, controlling export, import and transit transactions.

The WCO Data Model can be used to create electronic templates of supporting documents.



Globally Networked Customs

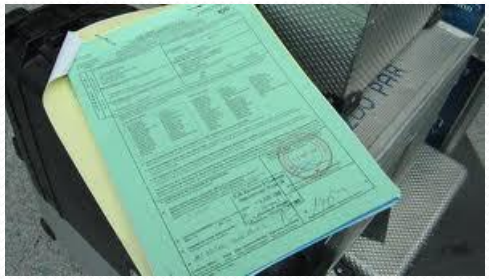


Globally Networked Customs concept promotes a standardized way for Customs authorities to exchange information through the development of Utility Blocks.

Ongoing projects - eATA

✓To dematerialize ATA carnets which are widely used for temporary admission procedures, the eATA Working Group was established in the WCO.

✓The Administrative Committee of Istanbul Convention recommended the amendment to the Convention to introduce “electronic ATA carnets”.

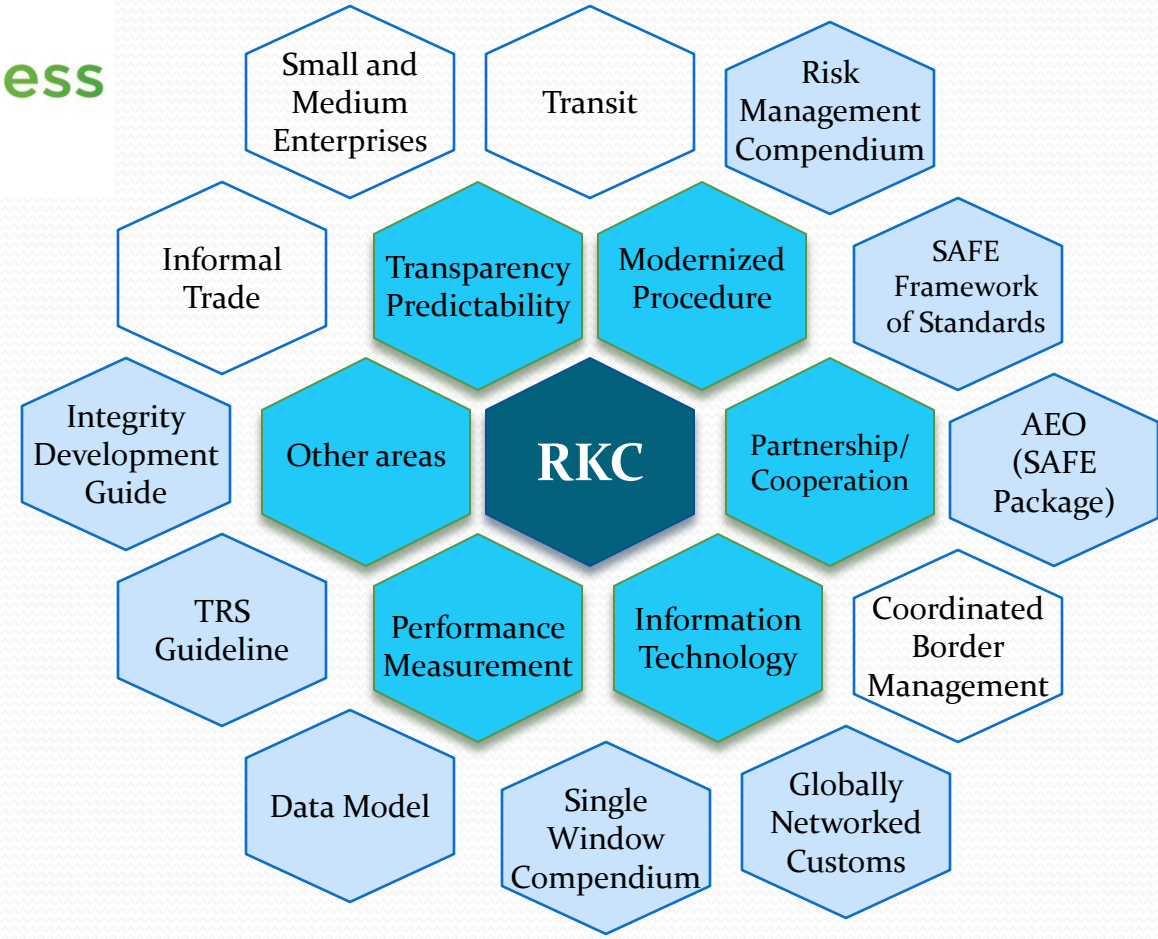


✓Interesting WCO Members will develop the UBs of eATA to promote the project.

Economic Competitiveness Package

Economic Competitiveness Package

The ECP comprises all WCO tools and instruments which may contribute to economic competitiveness



WCO Recommendation (adopted in 2012)

WCO Recommends that Members should as far as possible :

✓identify supporting documents that are normally required to accompany the cargo and goods declarations and examine the need for those documents for Customs clearance with a view to eliminating them;

✓ discontinue the requirement of presenting supporting documents in hard copy, if they have already been presented in electronic form;

✓process the release and clearance of cargo based only on electronic declaration and automated verification;

✓enable automated Customs clearance systems to automatically verify information contained in dematerialized supporting documents where such information is accessible electronically in :

(a) Other government agencies' databases
(b) Single Window environments (and Cargo Community Systems)
(c) Private repositories.

For Further Information

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