

This a weekly feature with the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service.

Compiled by



Maraia Vula

This week, we look back at some of the major initiatives undertaken by Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) to improve trade facilitation as well as modernisation of its

laws for ease of doing business in Fiji.

It not only directly impacts economic activity and multiplier effects but helps grows the economy and tax base.

Read more below:



FRCS Introduces Initiatives for Ease of Doing Business in Fiji

SUN INTERVIEW - FIJI REVENUE AND CUSTOMS SERVICE CHIEF EXECUTIVE VISVANATH DAS



Fiji Revenue and Customs Service chief executive officer Visvanath Das.

The Fiji Revenue & Customs Service (FRCS) has undertaken major reforms through its transformation journey in the last few years to facilitate cross border trade and expedite movement, release and clearance of goods. These measures have had a beneficial effect to the overall transaction cost and the time associated with import, export and transshipment of goods through our borders. Trade facilitation is particularly important for developing countries like Fiji, enhancing smooth flow of goods and people. It not only directly impacts economic activity and multiplier effects but helps grows the economy and tax base.

Setting up of Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee
A high level border agency committee has been set-up at every major Customs seaport and airport under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer. The members include senior officials from our key stakeholders including government officials.

WTO TFA Implementation and NTFC
In order to effectively engage and progress the implementation of the agreement of trade facilitation, a National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) has been formed. It is chaired by the Honorable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism and includes various stakeholders from the government and private sector involved in the cross border supply chain. A national trade facilitation action plan has been formed as a road map. The committee is also engaged with the World Bank for technical support on the implementation of various articles of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) concisely with category A, commitments where standards of implementation can be enhanced, category B - commitments which need administrative, legal and IT changes for the implementation and other partners in logistics industry which are enablers for effective implementation of TFA.

Introduction of Authorised Economic Operators Programme (AEO)
The Fiji AEO programme seeks to provide tangible benefits in the form of faster customs clearance and simplified customs procedures. Business entities are entrusted to offer a



- BENEFITS TO AEO'S ARE;**
- Deferred payment of import duties through deferred payment system to all the AEOs. Importers accredited under AEO Programme have been notified of the benefits under these facilities.
 - Bond Guarantee Waiver to all operators under AEO whereby all banks or bond guarantees has been waived. These includes bonded warehouses, tanks and private bond facilities.
 - Inspection Fee Waiver for all inspection of goods under Customs profiles where extra Customs Officers are required to attend has been waived. These charges have been absorbed by FRCS for smooth facilitation of trade.

high degree of confidence in compliance and security in respect of their role in the supply chain. As a further step towards voluntary compliance, FRCS has introduced the AEO programme where extensive benefits including greater facilitation and self-certification has been provided to those entities who have demonstrated a strong internal control system and compliance with tax and customs laws.

FRCS Customs Integrated Risk Management with Key Border Partners
FRCS has introduced a swift integrated data exchange programme in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and Biosecurity Authority of Fiji for seamless and legitimate facilitation of trade through the ASYCUDA System.

This will ensure ease of exchange of information between governmental organisations. The key agencies have a real time cargo profiling with real-time visibility and intervention to high risk cargo and allowing low or no risk cargoes to freely flow through our borders. This is a step towards an expansion and systematic scope to approach a single window scheme, reduction in the cost of doing business, greater transparency, elimination of multiple submission of documents and optimal utilisation of resources.

Promotion of Direct Port Delivery (DPD)
Direct Port Delivery (DPD) is an initiative that allows traders to lodge entry with Customs before the arrival of cargo. The scheme allows importers and Customs Agents to complete Customs clearance under self-assessment facilities at the port of entries and take the container directly to the factory without going through the Container Freight Stations (CFS). In order to ensure DPD services are available to Importers and Agents, Customs has introduced on the wheel examination within the port terminal facilities. Priority verification of assessment is done for DPD Importers to assist early release of containers. This will enhance overall speed and efficiency in clearance of shipments and consignments at all times.

Enhanced Facilitation through Risk Management System
The risk management system has been strengthened to bring down interdictions and inspection processes resulting in earlier clearance of goods. Cargo selectivity module is enhanced through Compliance Improvement strategy

Scan QR to View More News



(CIS) and periodic review of cargoes and traders with targeted interceptions through virtual, physical and post interventions to deter incorrect declaration. This will be further upgraded to comprehend risk parameters of partner government agencies through systematic approach.

Implementation of Detector Dog Unit
FRCS through International Co-operation and under Customs mutual administrative assistance with the Australian and New Zealand Customs has successfully commissioned Fiji's Detector Dog Unit (FDDU). This unit has been instrumental in intercepting millions of dollars' worth of illicit goods at our borders. The FDDU team not only assists at the border but has significantly contributed in community protection through intercepting illicit drugs, narcotics and undeclared cash raids to suppress illegal activities and promote safe and stable economic environment. The Customs Act has been amended to include provisions to examine cargo/people in the Customs control areas using the Customs dog, a chemical substance, x-ray or imaging equipment or any other mechanical, electrical or electronic devices.

CONTINUES TO B7