

TECHNICAL GAP CHECKLIST FOR CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE (DRAFT)

It is important to understand technical issues in implementing paperless trade systems, in particular by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) that has limited experiences in introducing paperless trade.

The objective of the (draft) checklist is for self-assessment of technical gaps in implementing (cross-border) paperless trade systems, which can be valuably used by stakeholders from SMEs and LLDCs in planning the implementation of paperless trade systems. The checklist takes into consideration national issues, pre-requisites such as implementation of electronic and paperless transactions at national level, and the importance of single window for cross-border paperless trade data exchange.

The checklist is in the form of questionnaire with list of questions related to technical issues in implementing paperless trade systems and cross-border data exchange. It is prerequisite to assess the status of paperless trade systems implementation at national level first before looking into readiness for cross-border data exchange. In this regard, the questionnaire is structured into two sections:

(i) Section A - Paperless Trade System at the National Level

This section focuses on technical issues related to implementation of electronic trade systems in paperless environment at the national level. Technical issues are grouped into the following categories

1. Institutional and governance bodies for electronic data exchange in paperless environment
2. Level of automation
3. ICT infrastructure (Connectivity, sustainability and recovery)
4. Security
5. Business process re-engineering
6. Data harmonization and standardization
7. Capacity building
8. Others

(ii) Section B – National Status Towards Cross-border Data Exchange

This section is aimed at assessing the status of a country or an organization to embark on cross-border paperless trade data exchange projects.

The questions are in one way or another related to the various issues and challenges encountered in the implementation of paperless trade systems and cross-border data exchange. The answers to these questions will help analyse the current status and assess the level of readiness to implement paperless trade systems and cross-border data exchange.

For better understanding of the questionnaire and its rationale, annotation is provided in Annex A so that more precise answers could be provided.

It should be noted that the principle requirements for paperless trade and cross-border data exchange are not solely technical in their nature but to a certain extent legal too. In fact, some of the technical issues are results of legal requirements. For example, if domestic legislation mandates the adoption of a specific security technology, there could be a big challenge in finding a technical solution to engage cross-border data exchange with dialog partners who are not in favor of the same technology. In this respect, a few of the questions in the checklist are legally related but are relevant in considering technical issues and challenges.

Checklist
in
Enabling Cross-Border Paperless Trade Data Exchange

Country:

Name of Organization/Agency:

Name of Ministry:

Date:

*(Note: Please refer to annotation in **Annex A** for clarification on each item listed in this Checklist.)*

Section A: Paperless Trade System at the National Level

No.	Questions	(Y=Yes, N=No H=High, M=Medium, L=Low)	Elaboration on status/issues/ Future plan	Timeline (if relevant) for future plan
1.	Institutional and governance bodies for electronic data exchange in paperless environment:			
1.1	Is there strong political commitment in your country to implement paperless trade systems to expedite international trade supply chain?			
1.2	Does the paperless trade initiative encompass all the community partners and is it driven by the government at the top level?			
1.3	Is there an inter-agencies governance structure established			

No.	Questions	(Y=Yes, N=No H=High, M=Medium, L=Low)	Elaboration on status/issues/ Future plan	Timeline (if relevant) for future plan
	to oversee paperless trade systems facilitated by the government? If yes, please provide a diagrammatic representation of the structure and indicate the Lead Agency?			
2.	Level of Automation			
2.1	<p>(a) Has your country implemented any of the following systems?</p> <p>i. eCustoms,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it have the capability to receive, process and issue document electronically? Is it integrated with ePayment? Does it have the capability to authenticate users electronically? Does it ensure data/document security? What is the percentage of trade covered under this system? Are community partners connected to it electronically? <p>ii. ePort (including air, sea and land mode. Please specify)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it have the capability to receive, process and issue document electronically? 			

No.	Questions	(Y=Yes, N=No H=High, M=Medium, L=Low)	Elaboration on status/issues/ Future plan	Timeline (if relevant) for future plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it integrated with ePayment? Does it have the capability to authenticate users electronically? Does it ensure data/document security? What is the percentage of trade covered under these systems? Are community partners connected to it electronically? <p>iii. eLicense, ePermit, eCertificate etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it have the capability to receive, process and issue document electronically? Is it integrated with ePayment? Does it have the capability to authenticate users electronically? Does it ensure data/document security? What is the percentage of trade covered under these systems? <p>iv. Systems of other stakeholders of cross-border trade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it have the capability to receive, process and issue document electronically? Is it integrated with ePayment? Does it have the capability to authenticate users electronically? Does it ensure data/document security? 			

No.	Questions	(Y=Yes, N=No H=High, M=Medium, L=Low)	Elaboration on status/issues/ Future plan	Timeline (if relevant) for future plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the percentage of trade covered under these systems? <p>(b) What is your country's targeted timeline to cover all trade transactions through these systems towards paperless environment?</p>			
2.2	<p>Has a Single Window System been implemented in your country to expedite cargo movement/clearance and to facilitate international trade supply chain?</p> <p>If yes,</p> <p>(i) how does it receive data electronically i.e what kind of user interface and communication channel (internet based network or dedicated/secured private network) is used?</p> <p>(ii) does it support paperless environment?</p> <p>(iii) How many agencies are connected to the single window? Please list them.</p> <p>If no, does your country have a future plan and when is the targeted timeline to implement electronic transactions towards paperless environment?</p>			
3.	ICT Infrastructure (Connectivity, sustainability and recovery)			

No.	Questions	(Y=Yes, N=No H=High, M=Medium, L=Low)	Elaboration on status/issues/ Future plan	Timeline (if relevant) for future plan
3.1	<p>Is Internet service available at all ports/airports/cargo clearing house in your country?</p> <p>If not, what is your country's future plan and targeted timeline to connect the stakeholders of the logistic and supply chain including controlling agencies?</p>			
3.2	<p>Are the <u>systems mentioned in 2.1</u> connected via a common network?</p> <p>If yes, does it have the following features?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) an integrated secured network; (ii) able to provide a high availability rate of minimum 99.9% for trade data exchange in paperless environment ; (iii) able to support various communication protocols; (iv) able to provide secure information exchanges that ensure optimal confidentiality and data integrity (v) designed to take into account future requirements such as device and technology upgrades <p>If any of the above is lacking, what is your country's future plan to upgrade it and what is the targeted timeline?</p>			
3.3	<p>If a Single Window System is implemented, does it support heterogeneous systems (i.e able to integrate/interface/interoperate with systems on different</p>			

No.	Questions	(Y=Yes, N=No H=High, M=Medium, L=Low)	Elaboration on status/issues/ Future plan	Timeline (if relevant) for future plan
	platform)? If it does support heterogeneous systems, what is the method of integration/interfacing?			
3.4	Does your country have a strategic plan to address ICT infrastructure issues? If not, what is your country's future plan and targeted timeline to establish the strategic plan?			
3.5	Is there any policy for the establishment of a DRC at - agency - national level? Please state the DRC implementation at			

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