

ASYCUDA INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The implementation of ASYCUDA++ has brought about fundamental changes to the capacity of the Customs & Excise Department by the re-engineering of its mainstream processes and procedures and the way the department is doing business with its clients, fostering effective partnerships with the trading community and continued client education. It has shifted the onus of determining and assessing duties and taxes owing and for compliance with other import/export requirements to traders.

The department has embarked on a program of reform and modernization to create and sustain an enabling environment, which is conducive to investment and stimulus for new trading opportunities which will assist in enhancing Saint Vincent's competitive advantage in global economy.

The Customs and Excise Department has embraced Information Technology as one of its strategic tools for the attainment of its goal.

One of its primary goals is to satisfy the demands of its external and internal stakeholders by reengineering of Customs procedures and processes to improve the services it provides and facilitate trade. Consequently, it is now necessary to consider the total automation of business processes.

ASYCUDA

What is ASYCUDA?

The initial Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) project led to the simplification of procedures and provision of more accurate and complete trade data. It is an integrated computer system for the management of Customs procedures and operations, developed and maintained by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

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ASYCUDA Migration

The ASYCUDA Migration is an automation platform project of a trade facilitation and Customs modernization initiative that involves the upgrade of its ASYCUDA version 2.7 to the latest ASYCUDA++, as the catalyst for achieving the Department's strategic objectives, aims and goals aimed at solving Departmental problems and the attainment of world class administration and operational efficiency.

The objective of this was the full computerization of all of its operations with the aim of making its processes and procedures relative to goods clearance more efficient. This includes from the time of the arrival of goods via vessels or aircrafts to the final delivery out of Customs control.

ASYCUDA++

The implementation of ASYCUDA++: This was done in phases beginning with the implementation of Manifest and Cargo Management Module on May 1st 2007, followed by the Declaration Processing Module and other supporting Modules on October 01, 2007.

This brought about the electronic submission of cargo manifests and customs declarations by agents/carriers and brokers, the ability for clients to make payments of customs duties electronically and direct interface and information sharing between key government departments and ministries. It also enabled the Customs and Excise Department to facilitate speedier clearance of goods from seaports, airports, transit sheds and warehouses and create greater efficiency in the collection of revenue.

At present the ASYCUDA++ system is running 24/7, providing services on the mainland at the Kingstown Office and includes areas such as Campden Park Container Port, E.T Joshua Airport, the Postal Corporation Services (Post Office) , Chateaubelair and three (3) offices in the Grenadines (Bequia, Canouan, and Mustique).

The system provides centralized coverage for all Customs offices as well as connectivity with

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key government departments and members of the trade including customs brokers, shipping agents and importers/exporters. Connectivity to the system is done through secure frame relays internally and via the internet, with accessibility from any part of the world (once the modules are installed on a local computer).

ASYCUDA WORLD

ASYCUDA World builds upon the successful experiences of ASYCUDA++, which was designed to function in difficult telecommunications environments, and also to operate through GSM networks that are already widespread in developing countries. Being web-based, the ASYCUDA World system will allow the Customs Administration and traders to handle most of their transactions—from Customs Declarations to Cargo Manifests and Transit documents - via the Internet. It also supports E-Documents. It provides for the attachment of supporting documents along with the declaration being submitted.

ASYCUDA World is based on Java technology and the platform complies with the following overall requirements:

- Internet based
- Independent of RDBMS
- Independent of hardware platforms
- Resilience to telecom breakdowns
- Scalability
- Built-in security features
- Product entry cost (programmers training)

ASYCUDA World is schedule to be implemented by September 2013