

# WHAT IS IT?

## A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE FOR CROSS-BORDER DATA EXCHANGE

The WCO Data Model is a common language for information exchange between different stakeholders in the cross-border trade and movement of goods and passengers. It is a compilation of clearly structured, harmonized, standardized and reusable sets of data definitions and electronic messages designed to meet the operational and legal requirements of Customs and other cross-border regulatory agencies (CBRAs) responsible for border management. It is consistent with other international standards, such as the United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDDED), and is updated on a regular basis to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

## A MULTI-AGENCY TOOL

The WCO Data Model covers not only all Customs operational needs, but also meets the additional information requirements for a Single Window environment by providing for:

- ◆ Conveyance reporting
- ◆ Cargo reporting
- ◆ Agricultural and veterinary requirements
- ◆ Food safety
- ◆ Marine safety (ISPS)
- ◆ Environmental protection (hazardous waste and endangered species)
- ◆ Immigration requirements (crew or passenger)
- ◆ Response messages for all other cross-border Single Window-related government agencies

## A COMPLETE TOOLBOX OF STANDARDS

To ensure widespread acceptance and usage, the Data Model comprises:

- ◆ An agreed maximum data set for export, import and transit
- ◆ A comprehensive dictionary of the data needed to exchange and process legally required cross-border information associated with Single Window applications
- ◆ Standardized electronic message guidelines and other supporting implementation documents

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

## IN A CROSS-BORDER REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT, THE DATA MODEL WILL:

- ◆ Facilitate trade by providing a global standard for data requirements needed for the release of goods via electronic means
- ◆ Reduce costs to government and trade in terms of standards and systems maintenance, as well as future development requirements
- ◆ Decrease the cost of regulatory reporting, while enhancing the quality of reported data
- ◆ Eliminate unnecessary intermediaries by providing direct access to government services
- ◆ Eliminate redundancy in data collected from, and submitted by, economic operators
- ◆ Harmonize and enhance the implementation of new policies and programmes, such as AEO programmes and AEO MRAs, and ensure delivery of associated benefits

## IN SINGLE WINDOW ENVIRONMENTS, IT CAN:

- ◆ Provide all competent cross-border regulatory agencies with a common standard for regulatory data exchange, thus enabling the timely sharing of information
- ◆ Endow Single Window in individual countries with the same data standards, thus opening up new perspectives for networking on global border management

- ◆ Give international traders the capability to build a simplified interface with Customs and multiple government agencies, as well as offer a single access point to meet regulatory requirements in full
- ◆ Enhance the risk management capabilities of all related cross-border regulatory agencies, as their critical data needs can be met by a single submission to the Single Window
- ◆ Enable Customs to build up inter-agency operational communication that minimizes operational costs, investment and staff resource normally associated with border controls

## AS PART OF CUSTOMS' VISION FOR A DIGITAL CUSTOMS, IT ENHANCES COOPERATION BY:

- ◆ Enabling coordinated and collaborative border management to foster "SMART borders" and its guiding principles, which are at the centre of Customs compliance, enforcement and facilitation efforts: Secure, Measurable, Automated, Risk Management-based and Technology-driven
- ◆ Providing all cross-border regulatory agencies and their trade partners with a common operational vocabulary, language and syntax

# HOW TO MAKE IT A REALITY?

## ADOPTION WILL REQUIRE:

- ◆ Development of an implementation strategy that will include business process redesign and change management
- ◆ Development of a business model and a cost / benefit analysis
- ◆ Provision of the necessary regulatory framework
- ◆ Engagement with senior managers involved in policy, IT and operations
- ◆ Engagement with other cross-border regulatory agencies if the Single Window is to be part of the business model
- ◆ Engagement with private sector and industry groups
- ◆ Review of existing hardware and software applications
- ◆ Engagement of a skilled and dedicated project team comprising business and IT specialists

## GOVERNMENTS NOT YET USING THE DATA MODEL COULD:

- ◆ Ensure that their strategic management, operational and technical staff are fully informed about the nature, benefits and operational requirements of the Data Model
- ◆ Engage with the work of the WCO on the Data Model and on other related WCO instruments and tools, and address any gaps in understanding by:
  - considering WCO Capacity Building measures

- participating in WCO working bodies responsible for the maintenance of the WCO Data Model
- utilizing available publications on the WCO Data Model

- ◆ Ensure the availability of resources needed to implement the WCO Data Model
- ◆ Organize seminars and workshops to acquaint all stakeholders in the cross-border environment with the Data Model's features and advantages
- ◆ Undertake familiarization missions to countries which have implemented the Data Model, so that they can better understand its functionalities and contribution to enhanced border management
- ◆ Develop a concrete action plan for the adoption of the WCO Data Model

## GOVERNMENTS ALREADY USING THE DATA MODEL SHOULD:

- ◆ Keep themselves updated about changes to, and new versions of, the WCO Data Model
- ◆ Contribute to the maintenance and further development of the WCO Data Model by participating in the WCO working bodies responsible for its maintenance
- ◆ Provide feedback to the WCO Secretariat to help improve how the Data Model is presented and explained, thus promoting its use by other Customs administrations and cross-border regulatory agencies
- ◆ Promote the concept of the Data Model and its benefits

# A GLOBAL STANDARD FOR SEAMLESS CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS

The key to trade facilitation and an efficient global trading system is an interconnected electronic data exchange environment.

In today's world, the imperatives of economic growth and expansion, combined with the emergence of new approaches to security and environmental protection, call for more efficiency in how we deal with trade transactions. Customs administrations and other regulatory authorities must therefore minimize cross-border trade constraints via the use of modern technology and application of uniform global standards.

Over the years, however, there has been little co-ordination in the development of automated systems. As a result, thousands of pieces of data in hundreds of different formats have created barriers to international trade. An average international trade transaction involves 27-30 different parties, and some 40 documents with 200 data elements – of which about 30 are repeated and 60-70% are re-keyed at least once!

The WCO Data Model is the solution for achieving optimized electronic data exchange, providing a global standard for cross-border data requirements needed for the release and clearance of goods, and helping administrations conform to international standards. Use of the Data Model as the international data exchange standard could potentially result in significant savings in costs and time for governments and trade.



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

## WCO DATA MODEL

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