

## New Zealand and EU approaches to customs procedures and trade facilitation

**New Zealand and the European Union seek a high quality comprehensive free trade agreement that facilitates trade in a fast changing environment, while ensuring effective customs control is maintained. The EU and New Zealand have agreed to seek a high quality outcome in customs procedures and trade facilitation, including exploring opportunities to go beyond the commitments made by both Parties in the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement.**

We both consider that customs administrations should provide a predictable, consistent and transparent environment for the conduct of trade, and should explore ways to continue to improve the international trade environment. This could include considering how we can modify and simplify relevant rules, requirements and procedures, particularly in relation to the import, export, transit and transshipment, of goods.

The customs procedures and trade facilitation chapter sets out the general principles that will guide how customs procedures will operate under the FTA, and how customs administrations will work together to facilitate legitimate trade and to reduce trade barriers. It will also provide the basis to support future reviews and enhancement of customs procedures.

### **Objectives for this agreement**

The customs procedures and trade facilitation chapters in both New Zealand's and the EU's FTAs typically include a mix of general principles and specific obligations.

Key principles that both parties support include:

- conformity to international standards and recommended practices, where possible
- creating a trade environment that is predictable, consistent, transparent and facilitates trade
- promoting the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises
- encouraging a risk-based approach to customs procedures, with the clearance of low-risk goods facilitated through simplified procedures
- encouraging the use of automated systems and the electronic submission of customs documentation through a single entry point.

New Zealand will be seeking a number of specific outcomes, including access to advanced rulings on tariff classification, origin and valuation, along with affirmation that that valuation will be in accordance with WTO Rules, including the Customs Valuation Agreement. New Zealand will also seek expedited release of goods for express shipments and perishable goods, and specific review and appeal procedures for traders.

New Zealand's free trade agreements generally include a range of mechanism that assists both business and customs authorities to utilise, monitor and implement this chapter. Examples include exporter enquiry points, and customs-to-customs mechanisms or committees. New Zealand will seek to incorporate such mechanisms where appropriate.