



**Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry**  
**Customs Department**  
**Conducts 2<sup>nd</sup> Time Release Study**  
**for Trade Facilitation**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**[19 January 2021]**

**Outline**

Customs Department released the findings of its second Time Release Study (TRS) conducted in Asia World Port Terminal, Yangon Air Cargo Terminal and Myawaddy Trade Zone. The TRS measured and reported the time taken by Customs Department and other government agencies to release imported cargoes.

The TRS is a method endorsed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) for measuring the time taken by authorities to release import/export cargo and is recognized as a means of identifying bottlenecks and improving performance in import/export processes. Since entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in February 2017, members have been required to measure and publish average release times of import/export goods (Article 7.6 of the TFA).

The Director-General of Customs Department, Mr. Kyaw Htin, said it was good to see the results of the second study as an objective indicator for areas to be improved to facilitate trade. The first TRS was conducted in 2014. Since then, Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) was implemented in 2016. The improvements in the 2019 Study are largely attributed to the efforts of Customs Department and other trade-related government agencies working together to achieve a seamless flow of cross-border trade.

The findings of the second TRS are summarized as follows:

<b>Import Process</b>	<b>Survey Area</b>	<b>Overall average release time</b>	<b>Average release time for customs procedure</b>	<b>Average release time for OGAs procedures</b>
Vessel/aircraft/ border vehicle Arrival up to gate out	Asia World Port Terminal (Yangon)	9 days 6 hours 43 minutes	2 days 23 hours 37 minutes	2 days 11 hours 1 minute
	Yangon Air Cargo Terminal	5 days 8 hours 48 minutes	1 day 3 hours 49 minutes	N/A
	Myawaddy Trade Zone	4 hours 29 minutes	3 hours 45 minutes	3 hours 50 minutes

There are three kinds of Declaration which can be submitted in Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System for goods which need to apply OGAs recommendation. They are “Before Declaration” which needs permission from OGAs before arrival of goods, “After Declaration” which needs to apply OGAs recommendation with import declaration number and “After Release Declaration” which needs to send sample goods to respective OGAs. The procedures of getting OGA certificates in YACL are usually “Before Declaration” and “After Release Declaration”. The TRS survey measures the time from arrival to release of goods. Thus, the average release time for OGAs procedures is out of scope in TRS survey of YACL. In this connection, it is not described in the survey.

At YACL, the remaining 4 days 4 hours 59 minutes in the overall release time is due to;

- (1) Applying Master Way Bills from relevant airlines to submit Declaration in MACCS although the goods arrived in Myanmar, registering in MACCS by relevant forwarders if it was imported with House Way Bill and registering it as House Cargo by warehouse operator
- (2) Being late to submit Declaration by importer for various reasons although the goods arrived in Myanmar
- (3) Delaying as the importers wait and share the vehicle with other importers to carry out the release goods although they got the release order
- (4) Running less of labour and mechanism to move the goods in the warehouse
- (5) Keeping the goods in YACL warehouse without cargo clearance as the warehouse storage charges are high

At AWPT, the remaining 3 days 20 hours 5 minutes in the overall release time is due to;

- (1) Urging customs brokers to submit the Declaration for the cargo at the last day of the container storage allowance period inside the yard as there is no sufficient space for cargo in importers’ warehouses
- (2) Being unable to submit the necessary documents for importation in time such as bill of lading, invoice, packing list, import license, FDA recommendation letter and Ministry recommendation letter for tax exemption.
- (3) Not knowing OGA time in TRS survey for the cases such as receiving OGA approval before declaration and after release declaration
- (4) Being unable to make the payment in time although Customs has already released the payment statement for clearance.
- (5) Being insufficient of the port handling equipment and allowing container trucks to transport from 8:00 pm to 6:00 am by the directive of the relevant authority.

Average release time for customs procedures is not different from average release time for OGA procedures in MWD trade zone because it is OSS (One Stop Service) and TRS survey measured in MWD after declaration. The time gap in the overall release time in MWD trade zone is due to the movement of goods and traffic jam to release cargo.

The Director-General of Customs Department, Mr. Kyaw Htin, acknowledged the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for providing expert advice and technical assistance. Key findings and actions to be

taken for further trade facilitation are (i) to maximize the use of MACCS to further optimize the clearance process, (ii) to advance the implementation of WTO TFA to reduce the bottlenecks in the clearance process and (iii) to support Customs Department and OGA stakeholders through training and capacity building. It is also intended that regular Time Release Studies continue to be conducted.

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