



## INFORMATION SHEET

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# CUSTOMS

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## ***Time Release Study (TRS)***

### ***Background***

One of the focal points in international trading is the performance of Customs and their efficiency in clearing goods. In the modern business environment of just in time production and delivery, it has become more important that businesses are given fast and predictable releases.

PNG Customs have recognized that streamlining and simplifying clearance procedures is of benefit to importers, exporters and the national economy. In order to ensure that the streamlining and the simplification of procedures are effectively applied, the procedures have to be reviewed and updated regularly.

The aim of Time Release Study is to determine where, in the Customs process of clearing goods any problems exist, the type of problem, reasons for these problems and possible solutions to any problems.

### ***What is Time Release Study?***

Time Release Study (TRS) is one of the methods used for the review of clearance procedures, by measuring the average time taken between the arrival of the goods and their release. This allows Customs to identify both problem areas and their potential corrective actions to increase their efficiency.

The term "release" means the action taken by Customs to permit goods undergoing clearance to be placed at the disposal of the person concerned and the term "clearance" means the accomplishment of all formalities necessary to allow goods to be entered for home use, exported or placed under another Customs procedure.

TRS is primarily designed to measure the time required to release goods. This is normally from the time of arrival of the goods at the port, airport or land border until their release to the importer or a third party on his behalf.

### ***Scope of the TRS.***

The international movement of goods also involves other national authorities such as Port Authorities, Health, Quarantine and other agencies including the trading community, such as brokers, forwarding and shipping agents, carriers, banks and other intermediaries.

TRS can be undertaken at an individual Customs office, at a number of Customs offices or at all the Customs offices. TRS can also be conducted on specific type of goods like high duty goods or low duty goods etc.

A National TRS Committee has been set up within Customs to oversee and plan Time Release Studies. A working group will be set up to conduct the TRS and will include representatives from other national authorities and the trading community depending on the type of information required for the TRS.

***Benefits Time Release Study (TRS)***

Measuring the time taken for the release of goods also meets trade concerns relating to long delays in Customs clearance and helps Customs and other relevant national authorities respond to trade requirements.

***This information is provided as a guide only.***

For more information please contact the National TRS Co-ordinator on telephone 322 6835 or write to The Commissioner of Customs, PO Box 777, Port Moresby, NCD or visit the customs website.



***PNG Customs is an operating Division of the Internal Revenue Commission***