



## **PNG Customs Time Release Study Industry Fact Sheet**

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

The study called 'Time Release Study' or TRS, is a unique tool developed by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) which enables Customs administrations around the world to measure the time taken to undertake its cargo clearance functions. Several countries have already undertaken the TRS including PNG's neighbouring Customs administration, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.

The TRS is now the WCO's endorsed method for measuring the time taken by Customs authorities to release imported cargo and is recognised as a means of identifying bottlenecks and improving performance in import processes.

### **What are PNG Customs' plans for the TRS?**

The PNG Customs Service will shortly embark on a TRS program aimed at finding out how long its cargo clearance processes are taking, from arrival of goods at a port to their release from Customs Control for delivery. The scope of the study is primarily focused on how long it takes Customs to undertake its documentary and physical cargo checks before the goods are cleared for release.

The study will not focus on the time taken for other parties in the cargo clearance process to undertake their checks and processes.

In line with WCO standards, a TRS Working Group has been formed and a plan for the study has been developed.

Customs will undertake a program of full study's beginning in Port Moresby and Lai then including other ports in the Islands region. These will be focused solely on arriving sea cargo.

### **What will PNG Customs do with the results?**

Following the survey, results of the TRS will then be used by PNG Customs to further examine and streamline its business processes.

**What will the impact on industry be during the study period?**

The impact on industry during the study will be minimal.

Some parties, such as brokers and shipping agents may see a ***Time Release Study 2013 Cover Sheet*** placed on selected entries they are in the process of clearing **over a 5-6 week period**. In these instances PNG Customs requests that this Cover Sheet **not be removed** as this entry has been selected for the study and Customs is in the process of collecting data on how long it takes to clear.

PNG Customs may also be requesting cargo discharge times from PNG Port/stevedores during the study periods. PNG Customs will liaise with these selected parties directly to request specific data.

**How can industry help?**

PNG Customs does not anticipate any additional delays to cargo clearance times due to the study. However, PNG Customs does ask brokers and shipping agents not to remove, amend or annotate any ***Time Release Study 2013 Cover Sheets*** they may come across during the trial period.

**Further information**

For further information please contact Assistant Commissioner Modernisation – Mr Frank Babaga on 312 7585.

