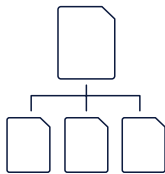




TIMOR-LESTE
Customs
Authority

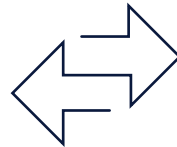


Organic Structure of the Customs Authority

(Decree-Law:2/2020)

A Brief Guide

English version



Why should you read this guide?

The Government of Timor-Leste is committed to supporting the national economy by encouraging and facilitating legitimate commercial trade. As the government agency charged with the movement of goods across our borders, we play a pivotal role in protecting the country from the import and export of illegal or restricted goods, and we help to ensure that we collect the correct duties and taxes on behalf of the government.

This booklet includes the following:

Part I – Overview	03
Part II – Our Responsibilities	09

This booklet provides helpful information on the Organic Structure of the Customs Authority (Decree-Law 02/2020, dated January 8, 2020), including a summary of the main objectives of the legislation and our responsibilities. You can find more helpful information about this legislation and other trade-related information by visiting the Customs Trade Portal at: www.customs.gov.tl

This information booklet is made possible by the generous support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). International Business Initiatives (IBI) prepared this information booklet's contents for the USAID/Timor-Leste Trade Governance Activity under task order 72047222F00001. The views expressed herein are the sole responsibility of IBI and do not necessarily reflect USAID or the United States Government's views.

Information provided within this guidance manual is correct at the time of publication; however, rules and regulations may be subject to change. If you are in any doubt, please visit the Customs Trade Portal for further information at: www.customs.gov.tl

PART I

Overview



What is the Organic Structure of the Customs Authority?

The Organic Structure of the Customs Authority (Decree-Law 02/2020, dated January 8, 2020) represents our legal and organizational blueprint and will help us transform and enhance our operational capabilities. The legislation embodies our commitment to align with international standards, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and integrity in delivering our services. This legislation marks a significant milestone in our journey, establishing a robust management framework, fostering an accountability environment, and delineating our structure and functions. The legal text sets forth our mandate to facilitate trade, optimize revenue collection, secure our national borders, and contribute to Timor-Leste's economic prosperity and global trade participation.

Approval Process

The Organic Structure of the Customs Authority (Decree-Law 02/2020) underwent multiple steps before being approved and published, including:

1. **Approval:** The government officially approved the Decree on August 23, 2019, demonstrating its commitment to revamping the Customs Authority.
2. **Enactment:** President Francisco Guterres Lú Olo enacted the Law on December 23, 2019, confirming its legal status.
3. **Publication:** The Journal of the Republic published the Decree on January 8, 2020, making it accessible to the public.
4. **Entry into Force:** The Decree became effective on January 9, 2020, with its provisions set to be operational 90 days later, facilitating the necessary preparatory measures for implementation.

International Standards

This legislation signifies our dedication to aligning with international standards, modernizing our operations, and actively participating in the global customs community. We will achieve this by:

- **Adopting Global Best Practices:** We integrate internationally recognized best practices in our administration, enhancing our efficiency and global compliance.
- **Strengthening International Cooperation:** Our active engagement in international customs networks underscores our commitment to global collaboration and security.
- **Emphasising Professional Development:** Prioritizing continuous training ensures our staff meets international customs administration standards.
- **Utilizing Technology:** Embracing technology to improve efficiency, aligning with international customs operation standards.
- **Delivering Transparent and Ethical Operations:** Transparency and ethics guide our operations, building trust and aligning with international expectations.
- **Applying Risk Management:** Implementing risk management and compliance measures secures our trade environment, reflecting global practices.
- **Facilitating Trade:** We follow key international provisions, including those required by the World Customs Organization, World Trade Organization, and ASEAN, to help streamline procedures, facilitate trade, and ensure security in global supply chains.

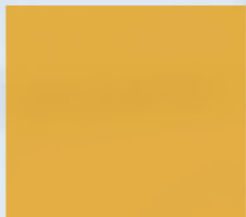


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Organic
Structure



Approval
Process



Stakeholder
Engagement



Delivering
Transparent
and Ethical
Operations



PART II
**Our
Responsibilities**

Our Responsibilities

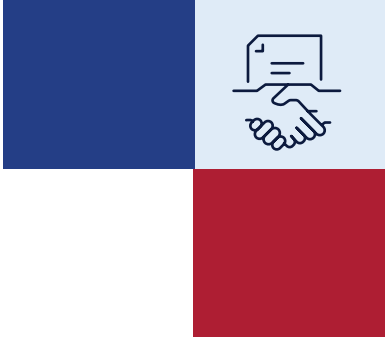
The Organic Structure of the Customs Authority (Decree-Law 02/2020) is instrumental in shaping our path toward a more efficient, transparent, and internationally aligned Customs Authority. The legislation reflects our dedication to facilitating trade, enhancing revenue collection, and securing Timor-Leste's borders, contributing significantly to our nation's economic prosperity and security. Here are the key reasons why this legislation is critical to us:

- **Modernization and Efficiency:** We are committed to modernizing our operations and enhancing efficiency. This legislation enables us to streamline customs processes, making our operations more agile and responsive to global trade needs.
- **Revenue Enhancement:** By refining our tax and customs duty collection mechanisms, we play a pivotal role in boosting state revenue. This legislation is essential for supporting Timor-Leste's public services and economic development.
- **Compliance and Enforcement:** The legislation strengthens our capacity to ensure compliance with customs regulations, combat customs fraud, and enforce tax laws effectively. These measures are crucial for maintaining the integrity of our national economy.
- **Alignment with International Standards:** We strive to align our operations with international standards. Decree-Law 2/2020 facilitates this alignment, improving our trade facilitation, border security, and international cooperation, ensuring we remain competitive and compliant in the global trading system.
- **Transparency and Governance:** This law promotes transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct within our operations. Establishing clear governance structures and operational guidelines is vital for building trust among our stakeholders.

- **Capacity Building:** We prioritize the training and professional development of our staff. This legislation ensures that our team has the necessary skills and knowledge for efficient customs administration, enhancing our effectiveness and professionalism.
- **Technological Advancement:** Adopting modern technology and information systems is at the forefront of our strategy to improve service delivery and operational efficiency. This Decree-Law supports our move towards technological advancements, securing our data, and simplifying procedures.
- **Legal Framework:** This legislation provides a comprehensive framework that clarifies our roles, responsibilities, and powers, ensuring effective management and execution of customs operations.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaging with stakeholders, including traders, international bodies, and government agencies, is crucial for our success. This legislation fosters a collaborative approach, allowing us to understand better and meet the needs of the trading community while ensuring regulatory compliance.



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