



SPS Write-off mechanism in the Single Window System (ASYCUDA)

Background information

Three months after the live implementation of SPS module in March 2020, Biosecurity put out a notice in May 2020 informing importers to ensure they have approved SPS permits prior to shipping their goods from abroad. The notice continued to state a grace period of this requirement and that it will be come into force in August 2020.¹

Since June 2020, the Customs clearance process was configured to request Customs Brokers to attach SPS documents as PDF files while submitting their Customs declaration. This requirement however is not mandatory.

To further strengthen Biosecurity controls at our borders, the clearance system has been enhanced to ensure only SPS goods approved by Biosecurity Vanuatu are imported or exported from Vanuatu. This is done by automating the write-off of SPS documents in the system. It is now mandatory to attach SPS documents to Customs declarations, not as PDF files, but as linked SPS e-documents, approved in the Single Window System.

This initiative is currently scheduled to be implemented in early November 2020.

Information about the SPS Write-off Mechanism

- A. SPS Applicants can view their assessed Customs declarations from their linked SPS document.
- B. Vice versa, Customs Brokers can view the linked SPS documents from the assessed Customs declarations.
- C. It is not possible to link an SPS document in a Customs declaration if it (the SPS document) is not paid, is not valid (expired or valid in the future) or is already written-off.
- D. It is not possible for an SPS document to be used in a Customs declaration of another Trader; the document is valid only for the company in the paid SPS document.
- E. The country of origin on the SPS document must be the same as the country of origin on the Customs declaration.
- F. The “HS Commodity Code” on the Customs declaration must be the same as the Tariff code on the linked SPS item.

For more information, please contact the following:

- The Vanuatu Electronic Single Window System: swnpt@vanuatu.gov.vu
- Biosecurity Vanuatu: benquiry@vanuatu.gov.vu

¹ <https://biosecurity.gov.vu/images/News/Notice-to-all-Importers-and-Exporters%202-Notice.pdf>