



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
TRADE, COMMERCE AND
NI-VANUATU BUSINESS

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Monthly Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

1. Validation and Training of the Energy module
2. VeSW team to attend online ASYCUDA technical training
3. VeSW and Customs to prepare for the next VeSW module to issue Preferential Country of Origin Certificates online

SPS Module 1st Year Anniversary

The automation of the first ever fully-fledged Biosecurity system in the Pacific!!



The Vanuatu Single Window Project marked an important milestone as it celebrated the first year of implementation of the ASYCUDA Sanitary and Phytosanitary Module (ASYSPS) in Port Vila on 24 March 2021.

Biosecurity Vanuatu and its stakeholders were the main beneficiaries as ASYSPS automated the application and payment process. The implementation was timely as it allowed businesses to continue at the beginning of the pandemic when the government adopted movement restrictions and social

distancing to prevent the introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in March 2020.

In addition to allowing online submissions, the automation of the SPS application process enhanced the approval turnaround time, particularly in dealing with perishable products, as Biosecurity officers can process applications where internet connectivity is available. ASYSPS has also been used by stakeholders as a digital storage and data management system, allowing them to access past permits and filling out new

applications easily.

Since the implementation of ASYSPS, the Biosecurity clearance process has been integrated with Customs in ASYCUDAWorld leading to joint risk management and eliminating the submission of SPS document hard copies. An online verification process has also been introduced through the Vanuatu [Single Window Portal](#) to validate the authenticity of SPS export certificates.

Source: <https://pacific.asycuda.org>

Biosecurity Vanuatu gone Green with automation!!

With massive economical benefits to the traders

“The VeSW Project is looking forward to extending this same level of benefits to other agencies to be automated in the system”

The introduction of the Biosecurity SPS module has already reaped many benefits for both the agency and its stakeholders, some with significant environmental impacts. Below are some statistics from March - Dec 2020 (not a good year for trade):

- 4,535 SPS applications lodged and processed online
- 35,545,120vt collected in fees
- 85% reduction in use of paper
- 67% reduction in vehicle trips to Biosecurity offices for SPS submissions, follow-ups and payments
- 0 trips & 0 paper for cargo clearance
- Over 100 users trained, 53% of which are females and 47% males



Biosecurity celebrating 1 year of success with team VeSW and Customs

Biosecurity online: Manual vs Automation

A comparison of the manual processing vs the introduction of automation at Biosecurity

Per SPS Application		
	Manual	Automation
Printed paper	At least 7 paper documents	All applications are lodged online with supporting documents attached to them. Applicants can get their printed receipt from Biosecurity, if required. Otherwise, the approved SPS documents along with supporting documents and receipts are available online the VeSW system for the Trader to download
Trips to Biosecurity	At least 3 trips	1 trip for payment*, if required

Per clearance of one consignment		
	Manual	Automation
Printed paper	At least 5 paper documents	0 paper, clearance declarations are submitted online in the VeSW system by Customs Brokers to be processed by both Customs and Biosecurity using risk management
Trips to Biosecurity	At least 3 trips	1 trip, only if inspection is required
Cargo Manifest	100+ pages of paper	0 paper, cargo manifest submitted online in the VeSW system by the airlines and shipping agents to Customs and Biosecurity

* The Single Window system provides Prepayment and Credit accounts to be used by Traders to facilitate their payments with Biosecurity. Physical payments can therefore be done only once per month, when required.

* **ATTENTION CUSTOMS BROKERS:** This facility is now available to Brokers to make payments for any agency under the VeSW system, on behalf of your clients. Please contact the VeSW team for more information.

VeSW Participated in WTO Aid-for-Trade Stocktaking event Out of 39 of the sessions broadcast world-wide, Vanuatu was fortunate to be featured in two of them to share its experience in the implementation of the Single Window System



The Vanuatu Government, together with UNCTAD and UPU, organised the webinar on “Digital transformation in Least Developed Countries for efficient and safe cross-border e-commerce and customs clearance” on 25 March 2021 as part of the WTO Aid-for-Trade Stocktaking event.

Vanuatu is one of the success stories in digital transformation in LDCs and panelists shared the experience and lessons learned to overcome the country’s small domestic market size, geographical distance from the main global markets, and impediments to the goods clearance process to improve Vanuatu’s competitive global position and economic performance. With funding from the Vanuatu Government, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and Australia’s Governance for Growth (GfG), the digital transformation initiatives included undertaking a Single Window assessment in 2014 and an eTrade Readiness Assessment in 2018, upgrading to the latest version of



ASYCUDAWorld in 2018, establishing the ASYCUDA-based electronic Single Window system (VeSW) from 2019, and implement-

ing the upcoming integration of the Post system in the VeSW.

Extract from: <https://pacific.asycuda.org>

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For past editions of this Newsletter, please click on the [Newsletter link on the Single Window website.](#)

The overall objective of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window project is to expand Vanuatu’s GDP through increased exports. The project outcome is to increase Vanuatu’s competitiveness through the reduction - cost and time of trading across its borders.

The Project is kindly funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Australian Government. The Vanuatu Government is also providing in-kind contribution towards the project, in terms of personnel and ICT support.

The main implementing partner in the Project is United Nations for Trade and Development, UNCTAD.

