



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

KNOW ABOUT ONE STOP BORDER POST

(FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

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SCT/OSBP DAR ES SALAAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ONE STOP BORDER POSTS (OSBP)

Introduction

This leaflet briefly provides answers to frequently asked questions about One Stop Border Posts.

Q1) What is One Stop Border Post?

Answer

One Stop Border Post is a border crossing where by people, goods and means of transport make a single stop to undertake both exit and entry controls from one State into another.

Q2) What are the legal instruments that govern the OSBP operations in the East African Community (EAC)?

Answer

The key legal instruments that govern OSBP operations in the EAC include the following:

- a) The EAC OSBP Act, 2016 which came in force on 01st October 2016.
- b) The Non-EAC OSBP Act, 2015 (Act No.17 of 2015)
- c) The EAC OSBP Regulations, 2017
- d) OSBP Bilateral Agreements between Tanzania and the Adjoining States

Q3) In which country do travellers stop for exit controls?

Answer

In the most commonly applied OSBP system, travellers stop in the country of arrival for both exit and entry controls.

Q4) Is it necessary to undergo exit formalities even after physically entering another country?

Answer

Yes, it is necessary to undergo all exit controls because travellers, goods and the means of transport will remain under the jurisdiction of the country of exit until all exit controls are completed. Exit controls should be completed before entry controls.

Q5) What is a common control zone in OSBP?

Answer

A common control zone is the territory of the host Partner State within which officers of the adjoining Partner State effect border controls. It includes an exclusive use area. An exclusive use area means that area of the control zone dedicated for the exclusive use of each of the adjoining Partner States.

Q6) Are all OSBPs configured in the same way?

Answer

There are different models of OSBPs. In the EAC, the juxtaposed model is the most common. A juxtaposed OSBP is one where two border facilities, one in each adjoining Partner State, are interlinked through secure approach routes where traffic is designed to flow in one direction. A single country or wholly located OSBP model is one where there is one control zone, in one of the adjoining Partner State that is interlinked to the other adjoining Partner State's physical border by way of secure approach routes which are part of the control zone. A straddling OSBP model is one where there is one control zone, literally positioned on the borderline, in such a way that one part of the control zone is physically situated within the territory of each of the adjoining Partner States.

Q7) Can officials of the host Partner State perform border controls on behalf of the adjoining Partner State?

Answer

At the OSBP, each Partner State is responsible for administering its own national laws at the border. However in so doing they use one location to do the controls and thus reduce clearance time of goods and passengers. In case of goods examination the work is done together.

Q8) Who is responsible for coordinating joint verifications at the OSBP?

Answer

The lead agencies are responsible for coordinating joint physical verifications. However, only the concerned agencies may participate during verifications.

Q9) Which Partner State is responsible for the maintenance of peace, security, law and order in the OSBP?

Answer

The maintenance of peace, security law and order in an OSBP is the responsibility of the host Partner State on each side. However, the host Partner State may request the assistance of the adjoining Partner State should circumstances warrant.

Q10) Can facilitation agents provide their services to clients from both Partner States at the OSBP?

Answer

Under the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004 Clearing and Forwarding Agents may only provide services in the Partner State where they are licensed to operate. Therefore, clearing and forwarding agents may only provide exit related services in the Partner State of arrival.

Q11) How can you identify facilitation agents for the respective Partner States at the OSBP?

Answer

All facilitation agents operating at OSBPs in the EAC are required by the law to display their identity badges or other agreed form of identification when working in the control zone.

Q12) Which Partner State is responsible for the maintenance of OSBP facilities?

Answer

Unless otherwise agreed, each Partner State is responsible for maintaining OSBP facilities located in its territory.

Q13) Are border community residents expected to fulfill the same immigration requirements as other travellers when crossing the border at an OSBP?

Answer

Except where otherwise agreed, all international travellers are by the law required to undergo entry and exit formalities when moving from the jurisdiction of one country to the other. However, at border crossings where OSBPs have been established, border community residents enjoy simplified procedures.

Q14) Are border community residents required to pay duty and taxes on goods imported through OSBPs?

Answer

The importation and exportation of goods in the East African Community (EAC) is governed by the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004 and its related instruments. Under the EAC Customs Union, the simplified Trade Regime (STR) is a special provision aimed at facilitating trade by small scale traders who regularly trade low value consignments. An approved simplified certificate of origin (SCoO) exempts consignment of goods that originate in the EAC and are valued at under US\$2,000 from payment of import duties in the EAC destination country. Border community residents with small quantities of imported products for personal use may be exempted from paying duties and taxes in line with travellers' rebates as provided for in the EAC Customs Management Act.

Q15) Are there user charges levied at the OSBPs?

Answer

The decision to levy charges is guided by national policies governing border operations. Some Partner States may charge user fees for selected services. Please confirm the situation with relevant Authorities of each Partner State at the border.

Q16) Do all OSBPs in the EAC operate 24/7?

Answer

While it is a policy of the EAC that all border posts should remain open at all times to facilitate the movement of goods and people, actual operating hours are determined by operational and administrative considerations at each OSBP.

Q17) How can I learn more about OSBP procedures in the EAC?

Answer

For more information about OSBP procedures, please contact TRA offices or other border agencies at the nearest OSBP, the Ministry responsible of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation (Tanzania), Ministry responsible for EAC affairs in the other East African Community countries or the EAC Secretariat in Arusha, Tanzania.

Q18) How many OSBPs are there?

Answer

There are nine OSBPs in Tanzania. The names of the OSBPs and their respective OSBPs of the adjoining State are: Holili/Taveta-Kenya, Rusumo/Rusumo-Rwanda, Mutukula/Mutukula-Uganda, Kabanga/Kobero-Burundi, Horohoro/Lungalunga-Kenya, Sirari/Isebania-Kenya, Tunduma/Nakonde-Zambia, Kasumulu/Songwe-Malawi and Namanga/Namanga-Kenya.

Q19) What is the difference between Single Customs Territory (SCT) and OSBP?

Answer

SCT and OSBP are all about **single declaration** and **single stop** respectively as against the conventional approach of having double declarations and two stops. SCT is the stage towards the full attainment of Customs Union which is attainable by the removal of duties and restrictive regulations and the minimization of internal border controls between Partner States. The main feature of SCT is single declaration done in the destination country followed by free movement of the goods. OSBP is an attribute towards trade facilitation. It's mainly a border crossing whereby people, goods and means of transport stop only once for clearance (exit and entry formalities) in the country of entry.