



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lao PDR Trade Portal



Lao PDR Trade Portal

Guide to Import and Export

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Importing and Exporting

If you are an importer or exporter or a traveller entering or leaving Laos these pages will help you understand what you need to do in order to import and export goods or merchandise.

If you want to know how to import commercial goods into Laos see Section Commercial Imports below.

If you want to know how to export commercial goods from Laos see Section Commercial Exports below.

If you intend to transport goods across international borders through the territory of Laos see Section Transit below.

If you are a traveller arriving at or leaving from an airport or crossing a land border see Section Passengers and Travellers below.

For public health reasons, the import of certain agricultural products, livestock, fish, drugs and food is subject to procedures requiring certain documents to be presented and approved by the agency responsible for enforcing the relevant regulations and certain obligations to be observed. For more information about the importation of these categories of product see Section Import of Agricultural Products, Livestock, Drugs and Food below.

If you are a shipping or transport agent responsible for the vehicles or crafts used in the conveyancing of commercial transactions you also have certain obligations in respect of regulatory requirements with the relevant authorities. To find out more refer to Section Transporting Goods below.

The import and export of goods is governed by a number of laws and regulations. These are listed in the Legal Texts page of the website.

Any violation of the Customs Law or regulations constitutes an offence which may attract a fine or legal proceedings according to the degree of severity. For a summary of offences and penalties as well as information about appeals and settlements see Section Error! Reference source not found. below.

Commercial Imports

Registration

If you are an importer wishing to import commercial goods into Laos you should, first of all, be a company registered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Enterprise Registration Division.

Prohibited Goods

Before importing goods into Laos you should ensure that they do not fall into the category of prohibited goods. Prohibited goods cannot be imported, exported, transited, sold or circulated in Laos (Customs Law 2011, Article 31). Among prohibited goods are weapons, narcotics, psychotropic substances and hazardous chemical substances. You should refer to the specific laws and regulations that cover these prohibitions. The goods prohibited for imports are listed in Notification No. 0973, Annex 1.

If in doubt you should seek advice from the Department of Customs or from the Department of Import and Export (DIMEX) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Import License

For certain types of products it is necessary to obtain an import license from DIMEX. Depending on the product, the license can be either automatic or non-automatic. The rules about licensing are governed by Notification No. 0076 and you can find the list of products requiring licensing in its Annexes as well as a list of supporting documents required.

If a product is not subject to licensing or to specific sanitary/phytosanitary or technical measures, you can proceed with the importation of the product by submitting a declaration directly to Customs.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Requirements

If the goods you intend to import are subject to sanitary and phytosanitary measures you will have to comply with the special regulations relating to those products. You can find out on this website which commodities are subject to these requirements by using the search facilities on the [Commodity Search](#) page.

Normally, you may need to get a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry either from the Livestock Department or from the Plant Quarantine department depending on what you are intending to import. A detailed description of the procedures and documentation required can be found on the [Procedures](#) page of the website.

Lao PDR has established an SPS Enquiry Point as required by the WTO SPS Agreement. You can contact the SPS Enquiry Point if you have any questions regarding sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. You can find the contact details of the SPS Enquiry Point on the website.

Technical Requirements

For certain types of products it may be necessary to obtain a permit that certifies that these products conform to certain technical standards. These technical regulations are administered by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

You can find out on this website which commodities are subject to these requirements by using the search facilities on the Commodity Search page. A detailed description of the procedures and documentation required can also be found on the [Procedures](#) page of the website.

Lao PDR has established a TBT Enquiry Point as required by the WTO TBT Agreement. You can contact the TBT Enquiry Point if you have any questions regarding technical standards. You can find the contact details of the TBT Enquiry Point on the website.

Import Declaration

All goods imported into Laos must be declared and duty is payable on them unless they are covered by an exemption or a suspension.

A declaration is made by submitting a duly completed and signed ACDD Form together with the following minimum supporting documents:

- A commercial invoice or contract of sale document from the supplier of the goods
- Transport documents such as Bill of Lading or Air Way Bill
- Packing List (if available)
- Certificate of Origin. This should have been supplied to you by the exporter.
- Any import licenses or permits obtained from other ministries depending on the type of goods you are importing

Declarations can be submitted at your regional Customs office.

A declaration must be submitted within 15 days from the date of lodgment with Customs of the transport documents (e.g. manifest) notifying Customs of the arrival of the cargo (see Transporting Goods).

Currently, at the Thanaleng border post only, all Customs declarations must be submitted via the Asycuda automated system. You can view the procedure for submitting declarations through Asycuda in the Procedures section of the website. In future, Asycuda will be rolled to all other border posts nation-wide. Until then, at these border posts, the normal procedure applies. You can view the normal procedure in the Procedures section of the website.

Certain penalties may apply if you do not submit a declaration in time (Customs Law, Article 24).

Advance Declaration

In order to facilitate the process of clearing imports you can submit a pre-arrival Customs declaration. This can be done within 7 working days prior to the date of arrival of the goods following the same procedures as a normal declaration. You can pay the duties at the time of arrival of the goods.

Customs Broker

You may engage a Customs Broker to carry out the import formalities on your behalf. For information pertaining to brokers see Section Customs Broker below.

Classification and Value

Customs duty is payable on imported goods as a percentage of their declared value. The rate of duty payable on goods imported into Laos varies according to the commodity and the country of origin.

Commodities are classified using the 8-digit Harmonized System (HS) Code which is maintained and, from time to time, amended by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The Lao tariff classification conforms with ASEAN's AHTN standard (ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature).

You can view the full Lao Tariff Classification and Tariff rates on the website with the [Commodity Search](#) facility.

It is your responsibility to declare the correct classification, origin, value and quantity of the goods you are importing. If in doubt please seek advice from the Department of Customs.

The basis for the calculation of duties is the actual transaction value of the goods (as evidenced by the commercial invoice or other contract of sale document). If the value of the goods cannot be established by this method Customs will attempt to establish the value of the goods using 5 more methods in line with Article 7 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1947).

Payment of Duties

Once a declaration has been submitted and accepted by Customs, Customs will be required to pay the duties. At the major border posts you will be able to pay for duties at a bank nearby. Present the receipt to Customs in order to receive your clearance. At other border posts only cash is accepted and you can pay for duties at the Customs cashier.

Goods Imported under Warehouse Regime

Goods can be imported into Laos under the Warehouse Regime if you are not intending to release them for circulation into Laos immediately. Duty will be suspended for the period the goods are in the warehouse and will be payable when the goods are finally released into circulation.

You must submit an import declaration under the Warehouse Regime when you bring the goods into the warehouse and a normal Import declaration when you want to bring them into circulation.

There are different types of warehouse. Please refer to the relevant article of the Customs Law.

Warehouses have to be approved by the Ministry of Finance.

Temporary Imports

Goods can be imported under the Temporary Imports regime under the following circumstances:

- Goods necessary for the manufacture, processing, assembly, transformation or repair of items which will subsequently be re-exported (“inward processing”)
- Vehicles imported for the purpose of project supervision or for tourism or business visits as long as they are re-exported by the allotted time
- Materials required for project supervision purposes
- Exhibition, educational or scientific materials

For these types of import you must submit a declaration under Temporary Imports regime. No duties are payable on these imports.

In all the above cases certain documents or permits must be obtained from the relevant authority and presented to Customs. Before importing goods under this regime please contact Customs to obtain advice as to what documentation will be required for your specific circumstances.

To import a vehicle into the country for the purpose of a temporary visit you need to make a declaration under the Temporary Imports regime to Customs at the border crossing. You must present a valid registration certificate for that vehicle. Vehicles imported under this regime must be re-exported within the allotted timeframe or a penalty will be liable.

For goods imported for exhibition purposes a bond is payable to Customs which is refunded when the goods are re-exported.

Exemptions

Exemption from Customs duties and other obligations are available for diplomatic missions, for goods imported under a government investment promotion scheme or for certain economic zone and for other goods to be imported under certain circumstance.

Please contact Customs to find out what is required to take advantage of these exemptions.

Personal belongings of passengers arriving in Laos are also exempt from Customs duties. For specific limits concerning these goods please refer to section on Passengers on the website.

Commercial Exports

This page describes the requirements for exporting goods from Laos in respect of the national law of Lao PDR. You should be aware, when exporting goods to another country, of any specific requirements dictated by the law of that country. You should therefore seek advice from the embassy or from the relevant authorities of that country in order to ensure that you comply with all your obligations.

Registration

If you are an importer wishing to export commercial goods from Laos you should, first of all, be a company registered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Enterprise Registration Division.

Prohibited Goods

Before exporting goods from Laos you should ensure that they do not fall into the category of prohibited goods. Prohibited goods cannot be imported, exported, transited, sold or circulated in Laos. Among prohibited goods are weapons, narcotics, psychotropic substances and hazardous chemical substances. You should refer to the specific laws and regulations that cover these prohibitions. The goods prohibited for export are listed in Notification No. 0973, Annex 1.

If in doubt you should seek advice from the Department of Customs or from the Department of Import and Export (DIMEX) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Export License

For certain types of products it is necessary to obtain an export license from DIMEX. Depending on the product, the license can be either automatic or non-automatic. The rules about licensing are governed by Notification No. 0076 and you can find the list of products requiring licensing in its Annexes as well as a list of supporting documents required.

If a product is not subject to licensing or to specific sanitary/phytosanitary or technical measures, you can proceed with the exportation of the product by submitting a declaration directly to Customs.

Certificate of Origin

When you export goods you will normally be required to obtain a Certificate of Origin by the authorities in the importing country. For countries that have a preferential tariff with Lao or with ASEAN you can obtain a Certificate of Origin from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Certificate of Origin Division. For all other countries, Certificates of Origin are issued by the Lao National Chamber of Commerce.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Requirements

If the goods you intend to export are subject to sanitary and phytosanitary measures you will have to comply with the special regulations relating to those products. You can find out on this website which commodities are subject to these requirements by using the search facilities on the [Commodity Search](#) page.

You may need to get a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry either from the Livestock Department or from the Plant Quarantine department depending on what you are intending to export. A detailed description of the procedures and documentation required can be found on the [Procedures](#) page of this website.

Lao PDR has established an SPS Enquiry Point as required by the WTO SPS Agreement. You can contact the SPS Enquiry Point if you have any questions regarding sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. You can find the contact details of the SPS Enquiry Point on the website.

Technical Requirements

For certain types of products it may be necessary to obtain a permit that certifies that these products conform to certain technical standards. These technical regulations are administered by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

You can find out on this website which commodities are subject to these requirements by using the search facilities on the [Commodity Search](#) page. A detailed description of the procedures and documentation required can also be found on the [Procedures](#) page of the website.

Lao PDR has established a TBT Enquiry Point as required by the WTO SPS Agreement. You can contact the TBT Enquiry Point if you have any questions regarding technical standards. You can find the contact details of the TBT Enquiry Point on the website.

Export Declaration

All goods exported from Laos must be declared to Customs.

A declaration is made by submitting a duly completed and signed ACDD Form together with the following minimum supporting documents:

- A commercial invoice or contract of sale document from the supplier of the goods
- Transport documents such as Bill of Lading or Air Way Bill
- Packing List (if available)
- Certificate of Origin
- Any export licenses or permits obtained from other ministries depending on the type of goods you are exporting

Declarations can be submitted at your regional Customs office.

A declaration must be submitted within 15 days from the date of lodgment with Customs of the transport documents (e.g. manifest) notifying Customs of the arrival of the cargo (see Transporting Goods).

Currently, at the Thanaleng border post only, all Customs declarations must be submitted via the Asycuda automated Customs management system.

Customs Broker

You may engage a Customs Broker to carry out the export formalities on your behalf. For information pertaining to brokers see Customs Broker.

Payment of Duties

Once a declaration has been submitted and accepted by Customs, you will be required to pay for any applicable duties.

Temporary Exports

Goods that are temporarily exported from Laos for the purposes of exhibitions, experiments, research, etc. and that will subsequently be brought back into the country must be declared to Customs in the normal manner.

For certain types of controlled goods, prior approval is required (see Export License above).

Goods exported under the Temporary Exports regime are suspended from Customs duties and other obligations.

A Customs declaration must be submitted when the goods are re-imported.

Duty Exemption for Exports

In order to promote the export of certain types of products, including most agricultural products, products derived from natural resources or manufactured products, these products are exempted from the payment of Customs duties. However, export duty is payable on certain types of products. The tariff applicable to these products is listed under the relevant HS Commodity classification. You can find out whether duties apply to a specific commodity by using the [Commodity Search](#) facility on this website. If in doubt, you should seek advice from the Department of Customs or from the Department of Import and Export (DIMEX) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Transit

If you are intending to transport goods from one international border to another through the territory of Lao PDR you must declare the goods to Customs by following the Transit procedure.

An import declaration under the Transit regime must be submitted to Customs on arrival of the goods at the Lao border.

The following documents must accompany the declaration:

- Commercial Invoice or Contract of Sale
- Bill of Lading or Transport Waybill
- Packing List

No duty is payable on transit goods but the declarant must provide a security in the form of a cheque or a letter of guarantee issued by a bank or financial institution in the amount equal to the Customs duties and other obligations.

Goods in transit must follow the route prescribed by Customs.

On arrival at the outward border an export declaration under the Transit regime must be submitted to Customs.

If all is in order, Customs will allow the goods to leave the territory of Laos and the guarantee will expire. If the guarantee was in the form of a cheque this will be returned to the declarant.

Passengers and Travellers

Arriving in Laos

If you are a traveller or passenger arriving at one of Lao's international airports or border crossing you may bring into Laos any personal belongings that do not exceed the amounts permitted. These amounts are listed below.

All types of alcohol	Not exceeding 2 litres
All types of beer	Not exceeding 5 litres
All types of wine	Not exceeding 3 litres
All types of cigarettes	Not exceeding 1 carton (200 cigarettes)
All types of cigars	Not exceeding 50 cigars
Tobacco leaves	Not exceeding 250 grams
Perfume or fragrant oils	Not exceeding one item of each
Precious objects	As specified by the Bank of Lao
Foreign currency	As specified by the Bank of Lao

You are otherwise bound by all regulations and requirements concerning the import of foreign or Lao currency, precious objects, archaeological and cultural objects and any other restricted or prohibited goods.

You do not need to fill in a Customs declaration form and you can choose to walk through the green 'Nothing to Declare' channel. If you have any goods in excess of the limits above or goods that are restricted or prohibited you should walk through the red 'Something to Declare' channel and declare the goods when questioned by the Customs officer.

Leaving Laos

If you are a traveller or passenger leaving Lao's international airports or border crossing you do not need to fulfill any specific Customs procedures unless you are intending to export goods that are subject to restrictions or prohibitions. In this respect you must comply with the normal regulations with regards to these categories of goods which are issued by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Please refer to Notification No. 0973, Annex 1 for a list of prohibited goods and to Notification No. 0076 for a list of goods that require an export license to be obtained. If you are in any doubt report to the Customs authorities at the border.

Import of Agricultural Products, Livestock, Drugs and Food

To import these commodities it is usually necessary to obtain a permit in advance of importation in order to ensure that these products do not pose a threat to human, animal or plant health. In this website we have attempted to give an indication of which products are subject to these requirements. However the circumstances may vary from time to time depending on conditions in the exporting country (e.g. an outbreak of a disease or a pest). You should therefore always check with the relevant department prior to importation to make sure you comply with all the latest regulations.

Agricultural Products

If you wish to import certain agricultural products such as pesticides, you should obtain an Import Permit from the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Livestock and Fish

If you wish to import certain livestock or fresh or frozen fish you should obtain a Technical Certificate from the Department of Livestock and Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Drugs

If you wish to import drugs for medical purposes you should obtain an Import Permit from the Department of Drugs of the Ministry of Health.

The products that fall into the category of drugs are described in the Law on Drugs and Medical Products.

Food

If you wish to import food for human or animal consumption you should obtain an Import Permit from the Department of Food of the Ministry of Health.

Transporting Goods

The importer or freight forwarder responsible for the conveyancing of goods to be imported, exported or in transit must submit the transport documents to Customs within 24 hours of the arrival of the goods at the Customs check-point. Transport documents are the commercial documents that describe the goods being carried.

The transport documents can be:

In the case of air cargo:

- A Air Manifest

In the case of road transport:

- A Packing List
- A Load List
- A commercial invoice issued by the Exporter
- A Bill of Lading or Road Waybill

Transport documents must be submitted to the relevant Customs border post within 24 hours of the cargo arriving at the border.

Customs Offences, Penalties and Appeals

Offences

A violation of the Customs Law or regulations is an offence and may be subject to penalties or legal proceedings.

There are two types of offences:

Minor offences which, in turn, can be of the first degree, second degree or third degree

- Serious offences which can be of the first degree or second degree
- Minor offences include, among others, declaring incorrect or incomplete information (e.g. quantities, description of goods, etc.), incorrect values or classification with a view to avoiding duty, storing or possessing dutiable goods without proper Customs documents to account for them.
- Serious offences relate to importing or exporting controlled goods without proper authorization by Customs or the relevant authority.

A detailed definition of what constitutes one of the offences above and the penalties that these will attract can be found in the *Customs Law, Part XIV, Chapter 1*.

Appeals

A declarant may appeal against a decision made by Customs that he considers to be unfair treatment. The procedures and rules governing appeals and settlement are described in the *Customs Law, Part X, Chapter 2*.

Summary of Penalties

The following is a summary of the penalties attracted by these offences.

Penalties for minor offences of the first degree

Any person committing a minor offence of the first degree will be fined according to the value of the goods.

Value lower than Kip 5,000,000	The offender shall receive a warning
Value from Kip 5,000,000 to 10,000,000	The offender shall be fined 5% of the value of the goods
Value above Kip 10,000,000	The offender shall be fined 10% of the value of the goods

Penalties for minor offences of the second degree

Any person committing a minor offence of the second degree will be considered to have evaded duty and shall be fined as follows.

The offender must pay the full Customs duty and a fine of:	30% of the value of the goods
If the offence occurs a second time the offender must pay the full Customs duty and a fine of:	50% of the value of the goods

Penalties for minor offences of the third degree

Any person committing a minor offence of the third degree will be considered to have evaded duty and shall be fined as follows.

The offender must pay the full Customs duty and a fine of:	70% of the value of the goods
If the offence occurs a second time the offender must pay the full Customs duty and a fine of:	100% of the value of the goods

Penalties for serious offences of the first degree

These offences relate to attempting to import or export controlled goods without proper authorization but also apply if a minor offence of the third degree is committed repeatedly. In all cases, the goods will be seized and, in addition, the following penalties will apply.

Any offence of the first degree	30% of the value of the goods
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Penalties for serious offences of the second degree

These penalties will apply if a person commits a serious offence of the first degree more than once as well as for violation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) or falsification of Customs documents.

Any offence of the second degree	50% of the value of the goods
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Where the offence relates to illegal goods such as weapons, narcotics or other prohibited substances Customs will seize the goods as evidence and will refer the matter to the Police to investigate further and take such action as may be prescribed by law.

When an offence is committed Customs may seize the goods or the vehicles used to commit the offence as evidence and initiate legal proceedings. The procedures governing legal proceedings for Customs related offences are described in the *Customs Law, Part XIV, Chapter 2*.

Customs Brokers

The owner of goods to be imported or a transport service provider may engage a Customs Broker to represent them in order to carry out the necessary formalities for Customs clearance.

At present there are no special requirements, other the normal requirement for being registered as a business and for tax purposes, to become a Customs Broker. However, the Ministry of Finance may, from time to time, issue regulations with respect to standards, requirements and the scope of operations of Customs Brokers. You should therefore check this website or contact the Ministry of Finance directly to make sure you are fully informed of any new requirements.

Obligations of a Customs Broker

A Customs Broker is responsible for the clearance of goods at the border on behalf of the owner of the goods.

Customs clearance brokers may perform the following activities and have the following obligations.

- Carry out all the necessary Customs clearance procedures according to the regulations including submitting all Customs documentation, submitting a Customs declaration, payment of duty and other obligations and removal of goods from a warehouse or a checkpoint on behalf of the owner of the goods
- Contact the Customs Administration to register their electronic declaration system
- Declare the goods correctly to the Customs Administration and submit supporting documents in accordance with Customs regulations and procedures
- Sign detailed Customs declarations in electronic format and/or other formats as required on behalf of the owner of the goods when authorized to do so
- Pay duties and other obligations on behalf of the owner of the goods
- Participate in the inspection of goods with Customs authorities
- Be responsible to the Customs Authority on behalf of the owner of the goods for any breach of the Customs Law or any other relevant laws or regulations
- Be responsible for the cost of transportation, unloading, warehousing and other expenses incurred due to inspection of the goods
- Open containers and boxes of goods; count the quantity of goods; weigh and measure the goods as may be requested by Customs Authorities

Exemptions from Customs Duties

Certain categories of goods are exempt from Customs duties. Below is a brief list of these exemptions. We recommend, however, that you enquire with Customs to ascertain whether you can take advantage of these concessions.

- Goods and vehicles for diplomatic missions
- Goods and vehicles by approved international organizations or international non-governmental organizations
- Certain kinds of items when changing residence (moving house)
- Civil servants completing their mission, students graduated from abroad and foreigners wishing to have permanent residence that import items in addition to vehicles are exempted from Customs duties for the following items:
 - certain items and in certain quantities that are not of a commercial nature
 - household items
 - goods received from inheritance
- Gifts of a delegation from overseas on official visits
- Humanitarian assistance
- Grant aid from foreign countries, borrowing or debt payment of the government
- Goods used for religious purposes (e.g. religious ceremonies, construction of religious sites) that have certified documents from a Buddhist organization or the Lao Front for Construction or the Ministry of Information and Culture
- Goods, weapons and special vehicles to be used for national defense and public security
- Samples and items for scientific research that are not of a commercial nature
- Under the Law on Investment Promotion the importation of certain categories of goods is subject to exemption or reduction of Customs duties and other obligations.
- Goods brought into and out of special economic zones and specific economic zones
- Goods sold to outgoing travellers in duty free shops duly authorized by the Ministry of Finance (also see Passengers)

Free Trade Agreements (FTA)

As a member of ASEAN, Lao PDR is a party to a number of Free Trade Agreements (FTA). These agreements are aimed at facilitating trade between ASEAN member states and the other countries signatories to the agreement. The ultimate objective is a reduction of the tariff on all commodities to zero. This elimination of Customs duties is implemented over time as a series of gradual reductions in the tariff.

Each ASEAN member state has made a commitment to this reduction of tariff. The links on the website will show the tariffs applicable to each FTA and their reduction schedule.

Currently, Lao PDR is a party to the following FTA's. On the website you can view and download the full text of the agreement or related document. All the documents below are in downloadable PDF format.

ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement	<p>ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement</p> <p>Rules of Origin for the Agreement on the CEPT Scheme for the ASEAN Free Trade Area</p> <p>Operational Certification for the Rules of Origin of the CEPT Scheme for the ASEAN FTA</p>
ASEAN-Australia/New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA)	<p>Agreement Establishing the Australia/New Zealand Free Trade Area</p> <p>Product Specific Rule</p> <p>AANZFTA Tariff Schedule</p>
ASEAN-China FTA (ACFTA)	<p>Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of South East Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China</p> <p>Rules of Origin for the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area</p> <p>Product Specific Rules</p> <p>ACFTA Tariff Schedule</p>
ASEAN-India FTA (AIFTA)	<p>Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between the Association of South East Asian Nations and the Republic of India</p>

	<p>Form AI</p> <p>AIFTA Tariff Schedule</p>
ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP)	<p>Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership among Japan and Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations</p> <p>Product Specific Rules</p> <p>Information Technology Products</p> <p>Operational Certification Procedures</p> <p>Work Programmes for Economic Cooperation</p> <p>AJCEP Tariff Schedule (must be read in conjunction with Guidance Notes)</p>
ASEAN-Korea FTA (AKFTA)	<p>Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation among the Governments of the Member Countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea</p> <p>Rules of Origin</p> <p>Explanatory Notes for ROO</p> <p>Sensitive List</p> <p>Highly Sensitive List</p> <p>Product Specific Rules</p> <p>Operational Certification Procedures for ROO</p> <p>Modality for Tariff Reduction and Elimination (Normal Track)</p> <p>Modality for Tariff Reduction and Elimination (Sensitive Track)</p> <p>Form AK</p> <p>AKFTA Tariff Schedule</p>

Commonly Used Terms

ASYCUDA	The new Customs management system currently being installed by Customs in Lao PDR.
ACDD	ASEAN Customs Declaration Document. The form used to submit a Customs declaration. This is based on the ASEAN standard format.
ASEAN	Association of South East Nations. ASEAN is an organization aimed at promoting economic growth, social progress, development and stability among 10 countries in the region. It comprises Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
CEPT	Common Effective Preferential Tariff. The tariff rates applicable to all commodities traded between member states of ASEAN. You can see the CEPT duty rates for all commodities in this website under Commodity Search.
Certificate of Origin (COO)	A document required by the authorities in an importing country to prove the origin of the goods.
Declaration	A document submitted to a Government authority (e.g. Customs) for the purpose of describing goods for which the declarant is responsible in order to obtain permission to import them, export them or transport them. A declaration is usually submitted using a prescribed form and may need to be accompanied by certain supporting documents. A declaration carries legal value and may be used as evidence in court. In Lao PDR a declaration is submitted by using Form ACDD (see ACDD above).
DIMEX	Department of Import and Export, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Enquiry Point	An official or office in a WTO member government designated to deal with enquiries from other WTO members and the public on a subject such as technical barriers to trade or sanitary/phytosanitary measures.
FTA	Free Trade Agreement. An international agreement negotiated between states or associations of states on behalf of their members (e.g. ASEAN) aimed at simplifying trade

	between the parties to the agreement as well as reducing and eventually eliminating all tariffs for goods traded between these countries. You can see any preferential tariffs relating to FTA's to which Lao PDR is a party in this website under Commodity Search .
HS Code	The 8 digit code of the Harmonized System that defines commodities. An HS Code is structured according to a hierarchy made up of Chapter (First 2 digits), Sub-Chapter (first 4-digits), Sub-Heading (First 6-digits) and Code (full 8 digits). The HS Code is used to identify a commodity for the purpose of applying a tariff or any special measures.
Measure	A special provision applying to a commodity. This could be a temporary or permanent prohibition due to SPS or other reasons or a specific requirement to obtain certain documents or carry out certain procedures. Normally, application of a measure is determined by the issue of a ministerial regulation or by an article of law.
MFN	Most Favoured Nation. The principle of MFN is enshrined in Article I of the WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1947 and 1994) . You can see the base MFN duty rate for all commodities in this website under Commodity Search .
Notification	A transparency obligation requiring WTO member governments to report trade measures to the relevant WTO body if the measures might have an effect on other members
SAD	Single Administrative Document. The form used by a trader to submit an import, export or transit declaration to Customs. In Lao PDR the form in use is the ACDD (see above) which is based on the ASEAN standard.
Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures	Measures dealing with food safety and animal and plant health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary: for human and animal health • Phytosanitary: for plants and plant products
SPS Agreement	The WTO Agreement with the rules regarding Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
TBT Agreement	The WTO Agreement concerning the application of technical regulations, standards, testing and certification

	procedures and how these should not constitute Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).
Transparency	Refers to the degree to which trade policies and practices, and the process by which they are established, are open and predictable
WTO	World Trade Organization

Procedures

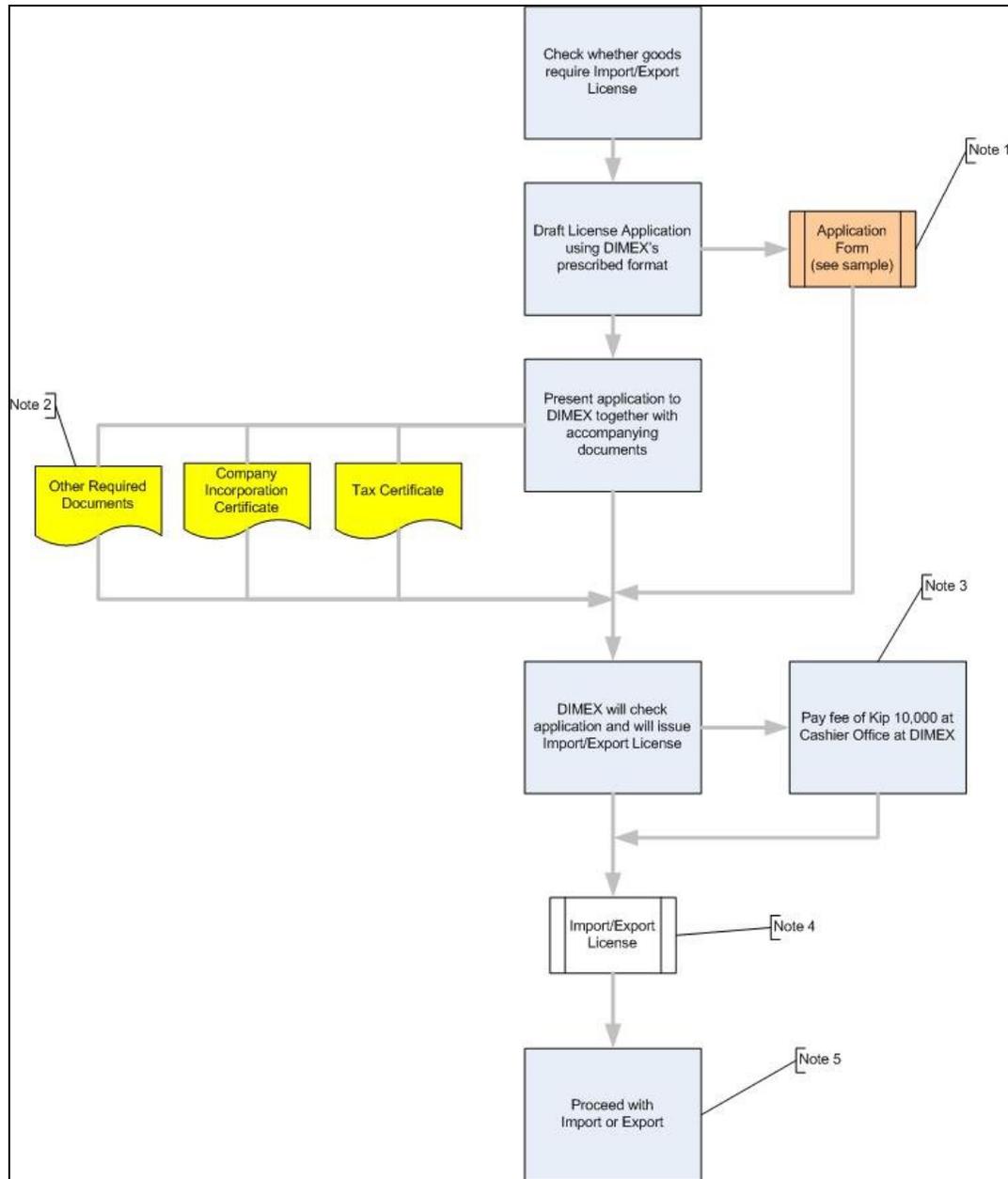
Application for Import or Export License

This procedure is used to obtain an Import License or an Export license from DIMEX/MOIC for goods for which a license is required. The license can be obtained from your nearest provincial office of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Import or Export licenses can be automatic or non-automatic. Automatic licenses will be granted in any case provided the normal statutory requirements are satisfied. Non-automatic licenses may be granted depending on a determination made by DIMEX. This is usually when an import quota is involved.

The procedure below is the same, except for the documents that need to be presented, for applying for an Import License or an Export License.

Please refer to Decree on Import Export No. 114 for the rules governing import and export licensing.



Note 1

The application form is a free format letter but a template is available from DIMEX.

Note 2

The documents required to be presented in order to obtain an import or export license vary according to the product and may need to be obtained from other ministries.

- Import of Cement for Project Use

You must submit to DIMEX an Annual Import Plan and an approval letter from the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Please refer to the relevant procedure to obtain this document.

- Import of Steel for Project Use
You must submit to DIMEX an Annual Import Plan and an approval letter from the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Please refer to the relevant procedure to obtain this document.
- Import or Export of Diamonds
In order to import or export diamonds certain specific documents need to be presented to DIMEX in order to prove their origin. These documents are listed in Notification No. 588/MOC.FTD.
- Import or Export of Wood Products
In order to obtain an Export License for wood products subject to non-automatic licensing (see Notification 076/MOIC.DIMEX) it is necessary to show to DIMEX the purchase agreement, a log list, a wood concession receipt.
In order to obtain an Export License for wood products subject to automatic licensing (see Notification 076/MOIC.DIMEX) it is necessary to show to DIMEX the purchase agreement, a Certificate of Origin issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the export stamp logbook and a log list.
In order to obtain an Import License for wood products subject to automatic licensing (see Notification 076/MOIC.DIMEX) it is necessary to show to DIMEX an export permit from the country of origin, a Certificate of Origin issued by the relevant authority in the country of origin (e.g. MAF), a quotation and/or contract of sale documents with a product list.
- Import of Motor Vehicles for Project Use
You must submit to DIMEX a quotation for the vehicle/s to be imported and a permit obtained from the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Please refer to the relevant procedure to obtain this document.
- Import of Petroleum Products for Project Use
You must submit to DIMEX an approval letter from the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Please refer to the relevant procedure to obtain this document.
You must also submit an import log book or certificate from the border control officer that shows the importations made against the import plan. In the case of import for project use it is not necessary to submit a Tax Certificate.
- Import of Gas Products for Project Use
You must submit to DIMEX an approval letter from the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Please refer to the relevant procedure to obtain this document.
You must also submit an import log book or certificate from the border control officer that shows the importations made against the import plan. In the case of import for project use it is not necessary to submit a Tax Certificate.

Note 3

The Import License form must be purchased by paying a fee of KIP 10,000 to the Finance Division of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Note 4

The format of the Import License varies according to the product.

Note 5

The trader can proceed with the normal import or export procedure.

Please refer to the Import Procedure applicable at Thanaleng or to the general Import Procedure applicable at all other border stations.

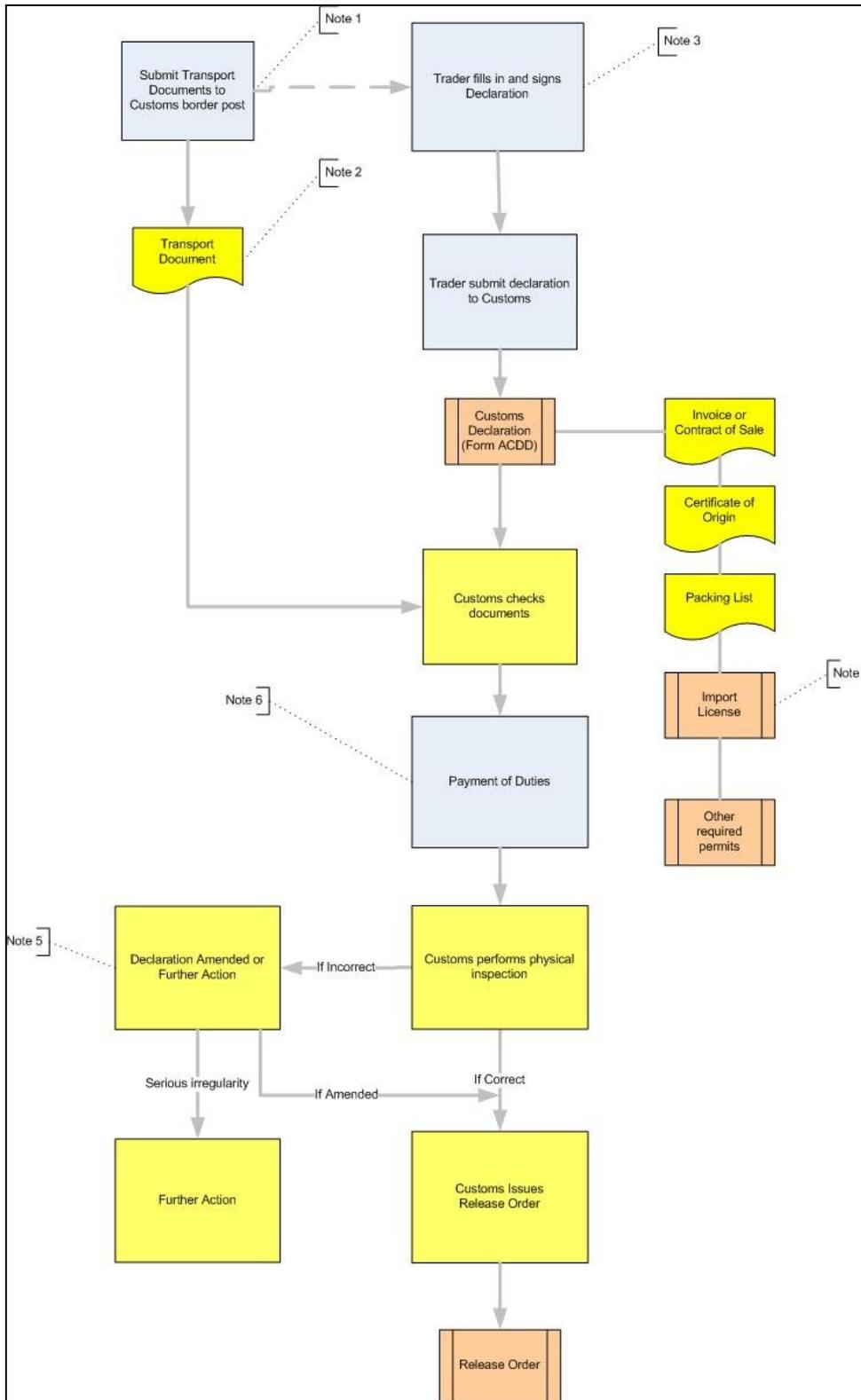
Please refer to the Export Procedure applicable at Thanaleng or to the general Export Procedure applicable at all other border stations.

Customs Clearance for Imports (General)

This procedure is generally applicable for all types of goods imported into Laos for domestic consumption under the IM4 Customs regime.

However, different types of goods may require different supporting documents to be presented to Customs together with a declaration. Please check this website or with the relevant authorities if you are in doubt as to whether a specific permit or license is required.

This procedure is currently in force at all border posts except for Thanaleng where the Asycuda automated Customs management system is in operation.



Note 1

Transport documents must be submitted to Customs within 24 hours of the arrival of the goods at the border.

Note 2

Transport documents are the commercial documents that describe the contents of the craft or vehicle that transports the goods and that arrives at the border post. These could be a manifest (in the case of air cargo), a transport notice, a load or packing list or a copy of the export declaration in the case of road vehicles.

Note 3

A declaration must be submitted within 15 days from the date of lodgment of the transport documents.

A declaration must be submitted using Form ACDD. A duly authorized ACDD form can be collected from the Customs office at the border post.

Note 4

An Import License is issued by the Department of Import and Export of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for those goods that are subject to licensing requirement.

For certain categories of goods (e.g. livestock, certain agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, etc.) it will be necessary to submit the relevant permit or license issued by the competent authority.

Note 5

If an irregularity results in an amendment of the declaration the trader may proceed with the clearance process. If an irregularity is deemed to constitute a serious offence, Customs may decide to take the appropriate enforcement action.

Note 6

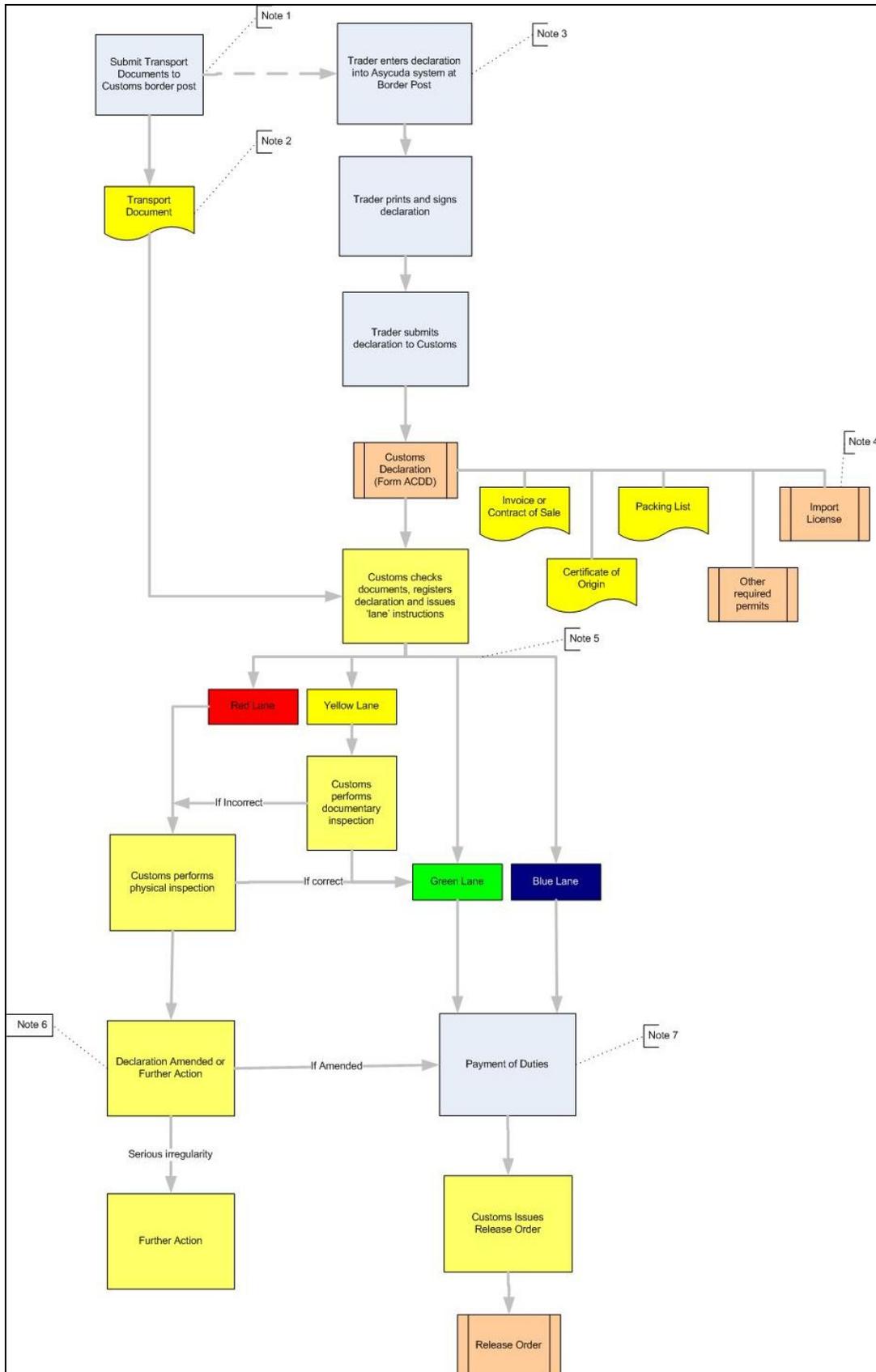
Currently payment of duties may be only be made in cash.

Customs Clearance for Imports (Asycuda)

This procedure is currently operational only at the Thanaleng border post where the Asycuda automated Customs management system is installed. In future, Asycuda will be rolled out to all other border posts nation-wide. Until then, at these border posts the General Import Procedure will apply.

This procedure is generally applicable for all types of goods imported into Laos for domestic consumption under the IM4 Customs regime.

However, different types of goods may require different supporting documents to be presented to Customs together with a declaration. Please check this website or consult with the relevant authorities if you are in doubt as to whether a specific permit or license is required.



Note 1

Transport documents must be submitted to Customs within 24 hours of the goods arriving at the border.

Note 2

Transport documents are the commercial documents that describe the contents of the craft or vehicle that transports the goods and that arrives at the border post. These could be a manifest (in the case of air cargo), a transport notice, a load or packing list or a copy of the export declaration in the case of road vehicles.

Note 3

A declaration must be submitted within 15 days of the date of lodgment of the transport documents.

For goods clearing at the Thanaleng border post, traders are required to enter the declaration at the computer workstations provided at the Customs office. A manually prepared declaration using Form ACDD is no longer acceptable.

Note 4

An Import License is issued by the Department of Import and Export of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for those goods that are subject to licensing requirement

For certain categories of goods (e.g. livestock, certain agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, etc.) it will be necessary to submit the relevant permit or license issued by the competent authority.

Note 5

A trader whose declaration has been selected for 'green lane' treatment may proceed for clearance without inspection and, once clearance has been obtained, the goods are in free circulation within the country.

A trader whose declaration has been selected for 'blue lane' treatment may proceed for clearance without inspection similarly to 'green lane' but will be subjected to Customs control at a later stage.

A trader whose declaration has been selected for 'yellow lane' treatment will be subjected to a documentary inspection. As a result of the inspection, if no irregularities were found, the trader may proceed with clearance. If any irregularities were found the trader may be subjected to a physical inspection of the goods.

A trader whose declaration has been selected for 'red lane' treatment will be subjected to a physical inspection of the goods. If no irregularities were found, the trader may proceed with clearance. If irregularities were found, Customs may require the trader to amend the declaration before being able to proceed with clearance.

Note 6

If an irregularity is deemed to constitute a serious offence, in breach of the Customs Law and related regulations, Customs may decide to take the appropriate enforcement action.

Note 7

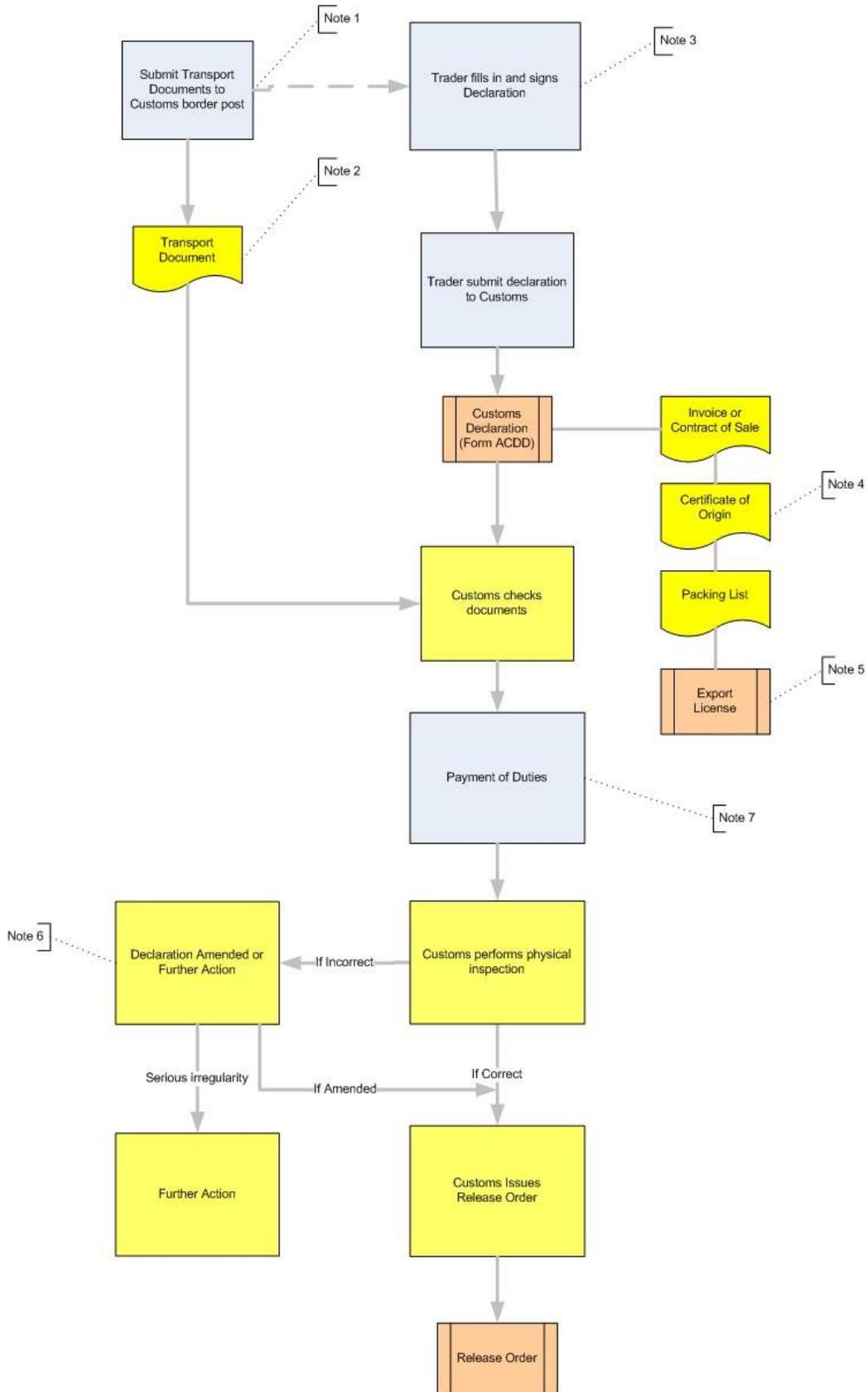
Currently payment of duties at Thanaleng may be made at the bank office at the border post or in cash. The bank will issue a receipt which the trader will present to Customs and Treasury before clearance is issued.

Customs Clearance for Exports (General)

This procedure is generally applicable for all types of goods exported from Laos under the EX1 Customs regime.

However, different types of goods may require different supporting documents to be presented to Customs together with a declaration. Please check this website or with the relevant authorities if you are in doubt as to whether a specific permit or license is required.

This procedure is currently in force at all border posts except for Thanaleng where the Asycuda automated Customs management system is in operation.



Note 1

Transport documents must be submitted to Customs within 24 hours of the arrival of the goods at the border.

Note 2

Transport documents are the commercial documents that describe the contents of the craft or vehicle that transports the goods and that arrives at the border post. These could be a manifest (in the case of air cargo), a transport notice, a load or packing list or a copy of the export declaration in the case of road vehicles.

Note 3

A declaration must be submitted within 15 days from the date of lodgment of the transport documents.

A declaration must be submitted using Form ACDD. A duly authorized ACDD form can be collected from the Customs office at the border post.

Note 4

A Certificate of Origin for exports for all countries with which Lao PDR has a preferential tariff (e.g. ASEAN) may be obtained from the Certificate of Origin Division of the Department of Import and Export, Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry is responsible for issuing Certificates of Origin for goods to be exported to all other countries.

Note 5

An Export License is issued by the Department of Import and Export of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for those goods that are subject to licensing requirement.

Note 6

If an irregularity results in an amendment of the declaration the trader may proceed with the clearance process. If an irregularity is deemed to constitute a serious offence, Customs may decide to take the appropriate enforcement action.

Note 7

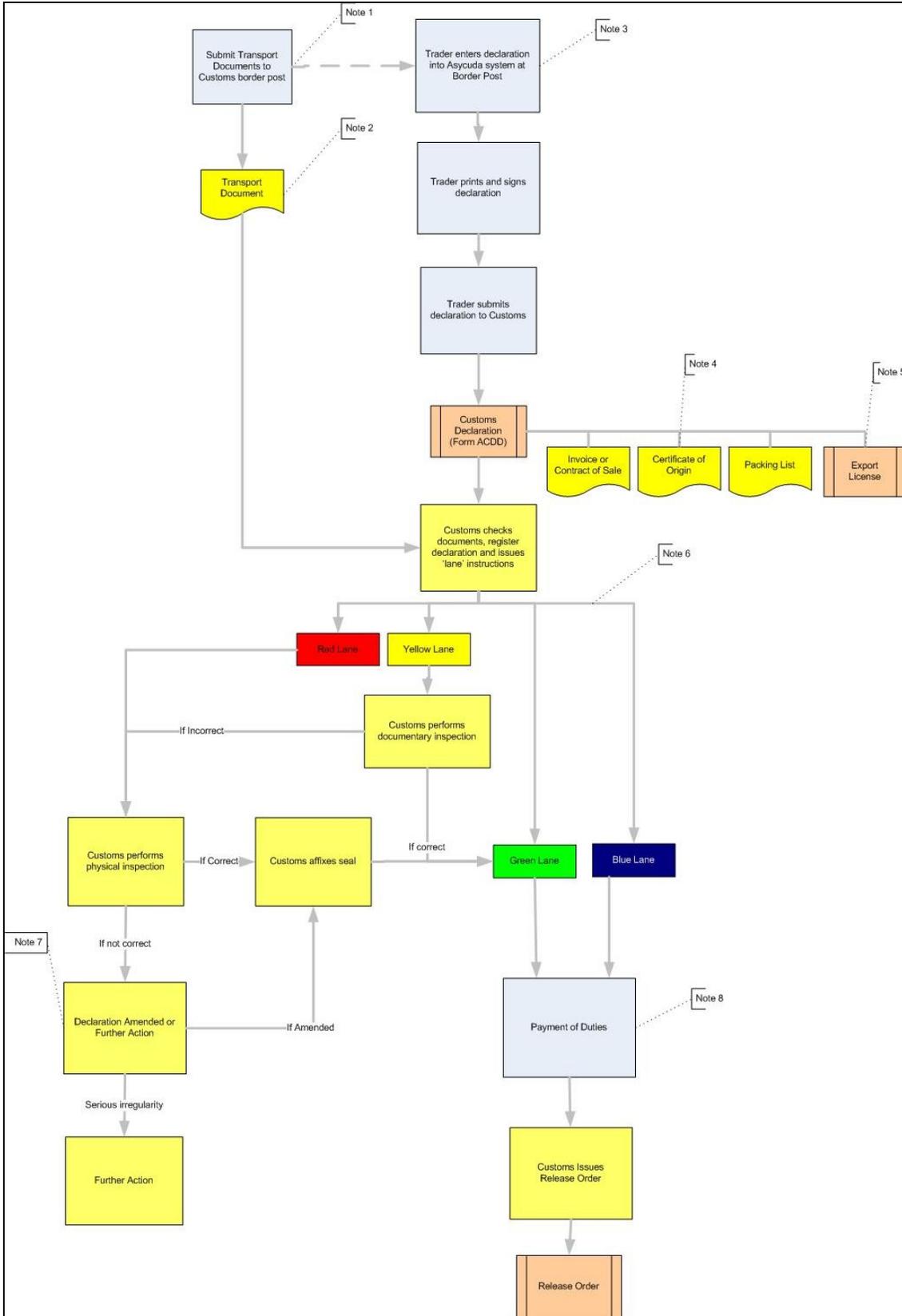
Most exports do not attract Customs duties. However, on some commodities Customs Duty is payable. In addition some other taxes may apply. Currently payment of duties at Thanaleng may be made at the bank office at the border post or in cash. The bank will issue a receipt which the trader will present to Customs before clearance is issued.

Customs Clearance for Exports (Asycuda)

This procedure is currently operational only at the Thanaleng border post where the Asycuda automated Customs management system is installed. In future, Asycuda will be rolled out to all other border posts nation-wide. Until then, at these border posts the General Export Procedure will apply.

This procedure is generally applicable for all types of goods exported from Laos under the EX1 Customs regime.

However, different types of goods may require different supporting documents to be presented to Customs together with a declaration. Please check this website or consult with the relevant authorities if you are in doubt as to whether a specific permit or license is required.



Note 1

Transport documents must be submitted to Customs within 24 hours of the goods arriving at the border.

Note 2

Transport documents are the commercial documents that describe the contents of the craft or vehicle that transports the goods and that arrives at the border post. These could be a manifest (in the case of air cargo), a transport notice, a load or packing list in the case of road vehicles.

Note 3

A declaration must be submitted within 15 days of the date of lodgment of the transport documents.

For goods clearing at the Thanaleng border post, traders are required to enter the declaration at the computer workstations provided at the Customs office. A manually prepared declaration using Form ACDD is no longer acceptable.

Note 4

A Preferential Certificate of Origin for exports for all countries with which Lao PDR has a preferential tariff (e.g. ASEAN) may be obtained from the Certificate of Origin Division of the Department of Import and Export, Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry is responsible for issuing Certificates of Origin for goods to be exported to all other countries.

Note 5

An Export License is issued by the Department of Import and Export of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for those goods that are subject to licensing requirement.

Note 6

A trader whose declaration has been selected for 'green lane' treatment may proceed for clearance without inspection and, once clearance has been obtained, the goods must leave the country.

A trader whose declaration has been selected for 'yellow lane' treatment will be subjected to a documentary inspection. As a result of the inspection, if no irregularities were found, the trader may proceed with clearance. If any irregularities were found the trader may be subjected to a physical inspection of the goods.

A trader whose declaration has been selected for 'blue lane' treatment may be subject to a physical inspection.

A trader whose declaration has been selected for 'red lane' treatment will also be subjected to a physical inspection of the goods.

Traders who have been selected for Red or Blue Lane may request the Customs authorities to carry out the inspection at their premises. After an inspection, if no irregularities are found, Customs will affix a seal to the container or truck and the goods must be exported. If irregularities were found, Customs may require the trader to amend the declaration before being able to proceed with clearance.

Note 7

If an irregularity is deemed to constitute a serious offence, Customs may decide to take the appropriate enforcement action.

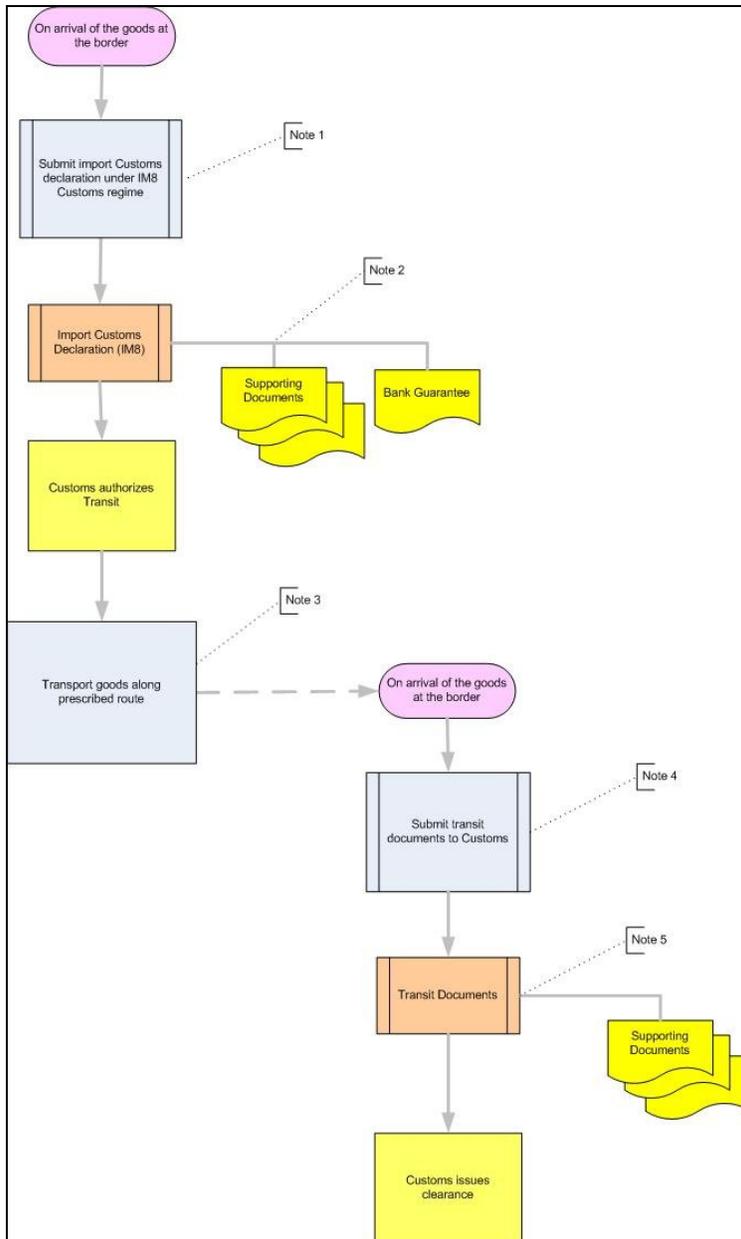
Note 8

Most exports do not attract Customs duties. However, on some commodities Customs Duty is payable. In addition some other taxes may apply. Currently payment of duties at Thanaleng may be made at the bank office at the border post or in cash. The bank will issue a receipt which the trader will present to Customs before clearance is issued.

Transit

Follow this procedure if you want to transport goods in transit from one external border to another. The goods should not be brought into circulation into Laos. Goods in transit are covered by the IM8 Customs regime.

No duty is payable on transit goods but the declarant must provide a security in the form of a cheque or a letter of guarantee issued by a bank or financial institution in the amount equal to the Customs duties and other obligations.



Note 1

Prior to arrival of the goods at the Lao inbound border the Trader must submit a Customs declaration (Form ACDD) under the IM8 regime registering the arrival of the goods. Follow the normal procedures for importing goods.

Note 2

The documents that must accompany a Transit declaration are the normal documents that are required for an import declaration, i.e.

- Commercial Invoice or Contract of Sale
- Bill of Lading or Transport Waybill
- Packing List
- Any specific licenses or permits relevant to the goods being carried

In addition, a declarant must submit:

- Cheque or letter of guarantee from Bank

Note 3

Goods in transit must follow the route prescribed by Customs.

Note 4

Prior to arrival at the Lao outbound border the Trader must submit the transit documents to the exit Customs border office.

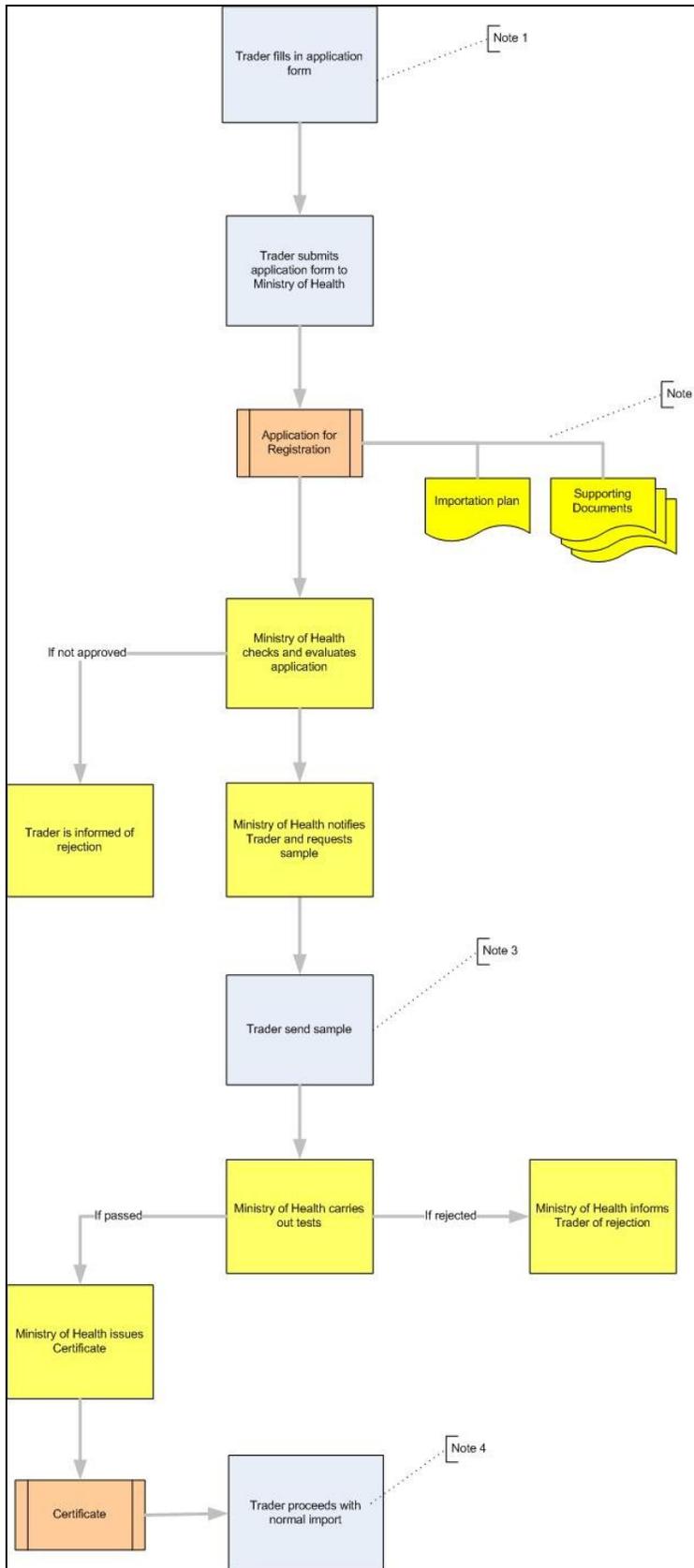
Note 5

Transit documents are copies of the IM8 import declaration and accompanying documents.

Registration and Import of Drugs

Prior to importing any drugs for medical purposes into Lao PDR it is necessary to obtain a certificate from the Ministry of Health to ensure that the drugs conform with the health standards laid out by the law. This procedure also applies to cosmetics and traditional medicine products. Please check the list of products which are classified as traditional medicines.

The following is the procedure for applying for a registration.



Note 1

The application form can be picked up from the a Ministry of Health office. After two year to need apply to re-register the drug.

Note 2

The import plan must be accompanied by certain supporting documents. These may vary according to the product and are normally listed on the application form. However, when in doubt, please seek guidance from the Drugs Department of the Ministry of Health.

Note 3

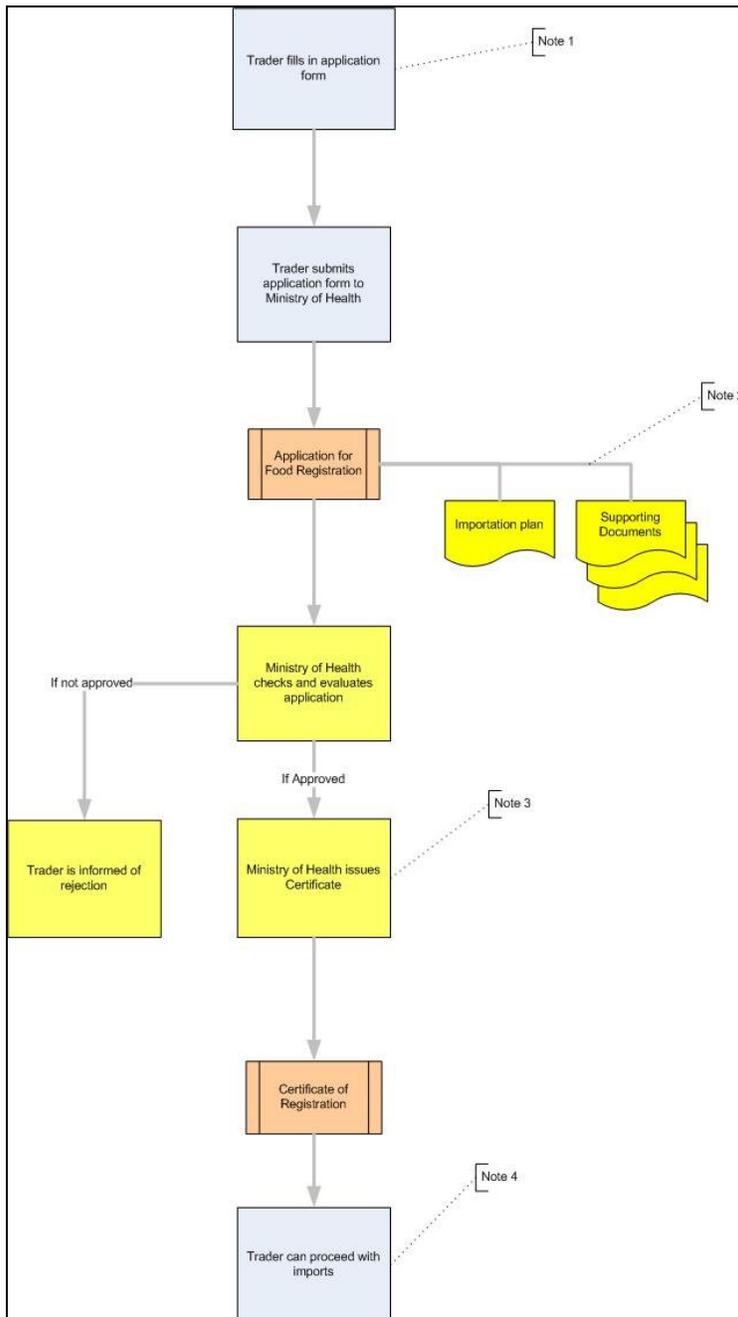
The Ministry of Health will ask the trader to submit a sample for analysis. The sample must be accompanied by a request form.

Note 4

Once the import plan has been approved the Ministry of Health will issue a Certificate of Registration and a series of conditions that must apply every time the products are imported. The Certificate of Registration is normally valid for a period. For every individual importation a trader must obtain an Import License from the Ministry of Health.

Registration of Food

This procedure should be used if you are intending to import any food items that are classified as 'food supplements'. In this case you must obtain a Registration Certificate before proceeding with the normal application for an Import License.



Note 1

The application form can be collected from a Ministry of Health office and a fee of Kip 2000 is payable.

Note 2

The trader must submit the application at a Ministry of Health office together with an import plan and the required supporting documents. The documents required are listed on the application form. However, these may vary according to the specific product so you should seek advice from the relevant department of the Ministry of Health in advance of submitting an application about exactly what documents will be required.

Note 3

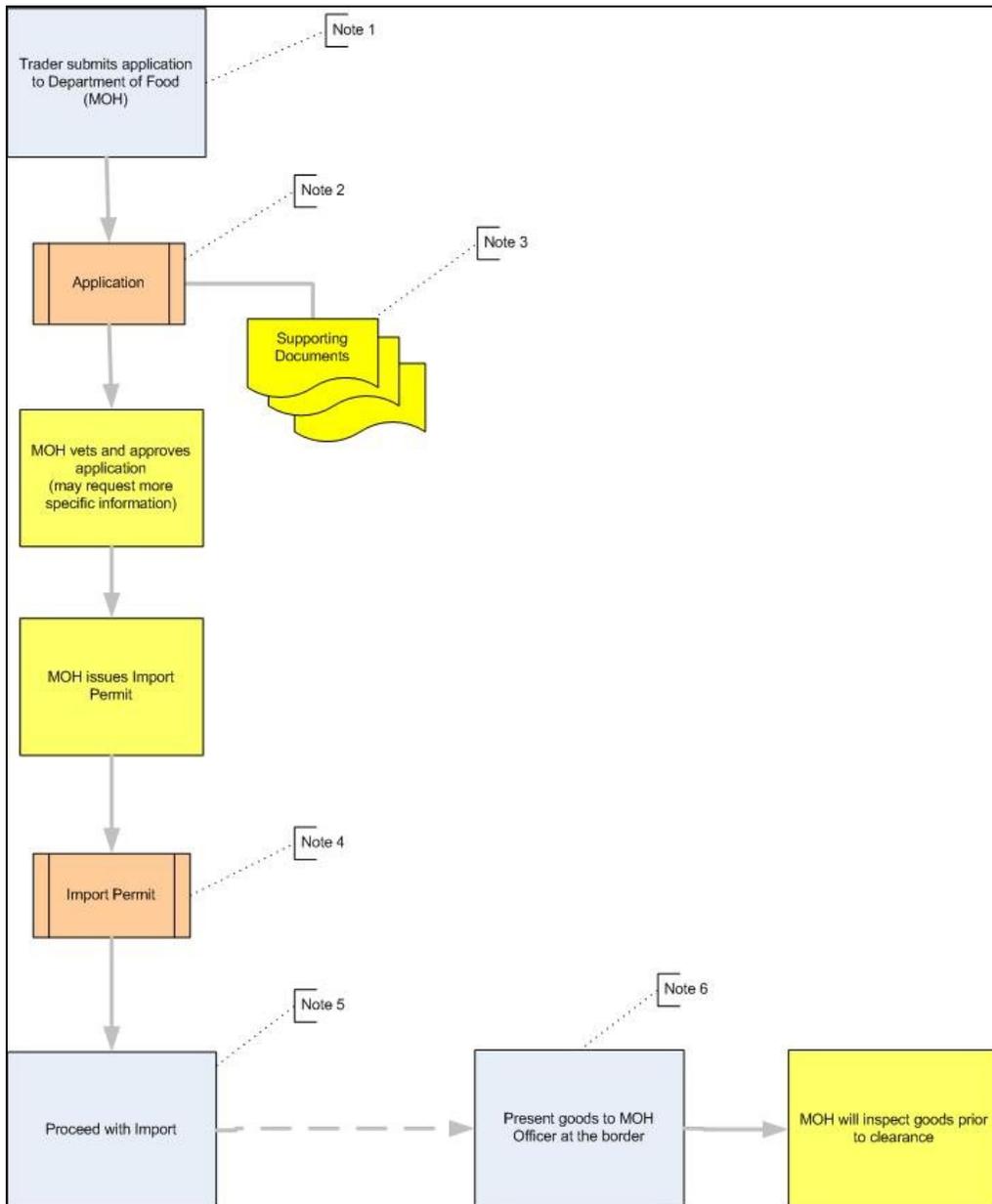
The Ministry of Health will issue a Certificate of Registration. This may take some time so, please, seek guidance from the relevant department as to when you can expect the certificate to be issued.

Note 4

After a trader has obtained a Certificate of Registration he can proceed with the normal procedure for importing these products which involves, in all cases, obtaining an Import License from the Ministry of Health for each importation.

Import of Food

You should follow this procedure if you are intending to import any food products. Food products are products of animal or vegetable origin that have been processed or packaged. If you are importing livestock or fresh or frozen fish please refer to the relevant procedures for these products.



Note 1

A trader wishing to import food products must present various documents to the Department of Food of the Ministry of Health in order to obtain an Import Permit. The trader must use the prescribed form.

Note 2

See application form.

Note 3

The application must be accompanied by a number of supporting documents that will enable the Ministry of Health to assess the product. These documents may include an Analysis Certificate or other certificates. These certificates are usually listed on the application form but, if in doubt, you should seek guidance from the relevant department of the Ministry of Health.

Note 4

The Ministry of Health will issue the Import Permit. This document must be presented to Customs and to the Ministry of Health Inspector at the border when importing the goods.

Note 5

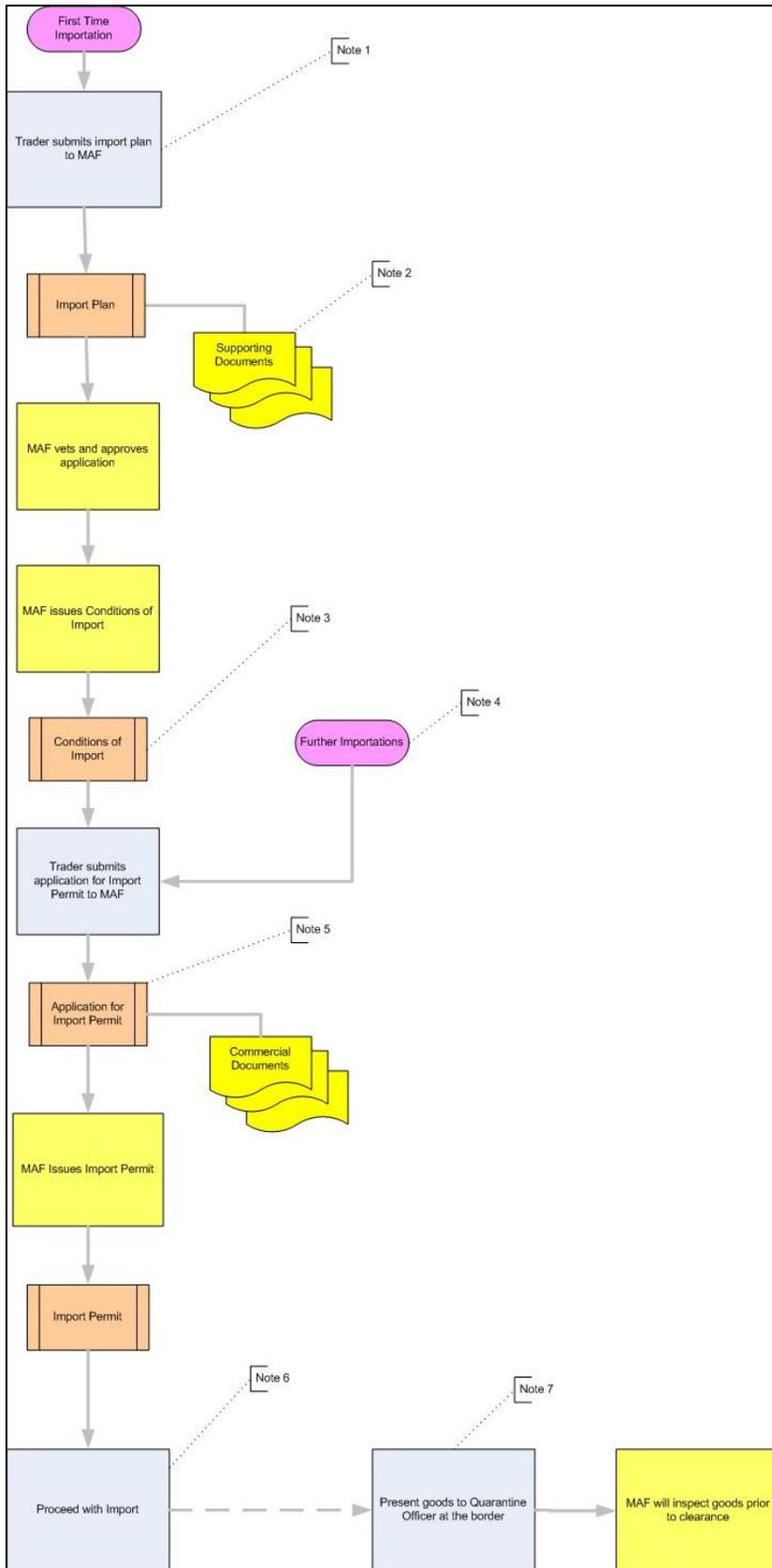
The trader may now proceed with the normal Import procedure.

Note 6

When the goods arrive at the border the trader must present himself to the Ministry of Health Officer who will check the documents and will carry out a physical inspection of the products to allow the consignment to be cleared.

Import of Agricultural Products (Pesticides)

Follow this procedure if you are intending to import agricultural products for which an Import Permit is required. These are pesticides and similar products. The agency responsible for approving the importation and issuing the permit, as well as carrying out an inspection at the border, is the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.



Note 1

The first time a trader wants to import a specific commodity subject to these permit requirement, he must present an import plan to the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. No application form is required and a covering letter requesting approval is sufficient.

Note 2

The request must be accompanied by a number of supporting documents that will enable MAF to assess the product. MAF will advise you of which specific documents are required depending on the product.

Note 3

MAF will issue the Conditions of Import. This document describes any specific conditions that the Trader needs to comply with when importing that product. This document must be presented to Customs and to the MAF Inspector at the border when importing the goods.

Note 4

Subsequent to the first importation of a commodity, a Trader may apply for an Import Permit directly by presenting the same Import Plan provided it is the same commodity from the same supplier.

Note 5

When the Trader is ready to proceed with the importation, he must obtain an Import Permit from MAF for that specific importation. This is obtained from MAF by presenting a cover letter requesting the permit, the Condition of Import and any commercial documents that may now be available, e.g. a commercial invoice, a Bill of Lading, etc.

Note 6

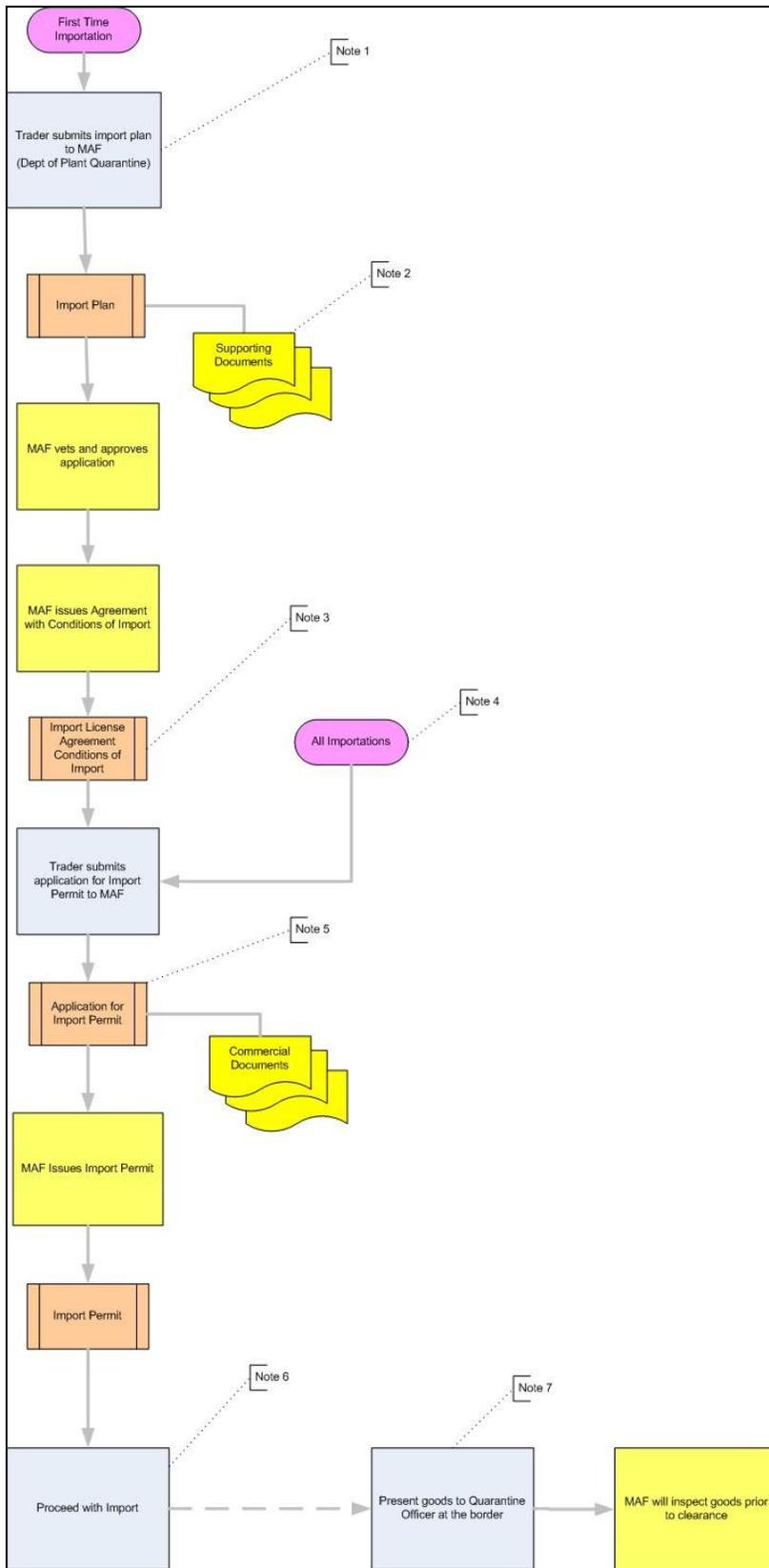
The Trader may now proceed with the normal Import Procedure.

Note 7

When the goods arrive at the border the Trader must present himself to the MAF Officer who will check the documents and will carry out a physical inspection of the goods to allow them to be cleared. If the goods are subject to quarantine the Trader may be required to keep the goods at his premises until they have been discharged by a MAF officer after the designated quarantine period.

Import of Agricultural Products (Plants, Seeds, Fruit, Vegetables)

Follow this procedure if you are intending to import agricultural products such as plants, seeds, fruit and vegetables for consumption, planting or growing. The agency responsible for approving the importation and issuing the permit, as well as carrying out an inspection at the border, is the Department of Plant Quarantine of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.



Note 1

The first time a trader wants to import a specific product subject to these permit requirements, he must present an import plan to the Department of Plant Quarantine of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. No application form is required and a covering letter requesting approval is sufficient.

Note 2

The request must be accompanied by a number of supporting documents that will enable MAF to assess the product. MAF will advise you of which specific documents are required depending on the product. The import plan must specify the intended quantities and frequency of the importations.

Note 3

MAF will issue an Import License with an agreement on the conditions of import. This document describes any specific conditions that the trader needs to comply with when importing that product. This document must be presented to Customs and to the MAF Inspector at the border when importing the goods.

Note 4

For every importation approved on the Import License, a trader must apply for an Import Permit by presenting the Import Plan provided to MAF.

Note 5

When the trader is ready to proceed with the importation, he must obtain an the Import Permit from MAF for that specific importation. This is obtained by presenting a cover letter requesting the permit, the Import License and any commercial documents that may now be available, e.g. a commercial invoice, a Bill of Lading, etc.

Note 6

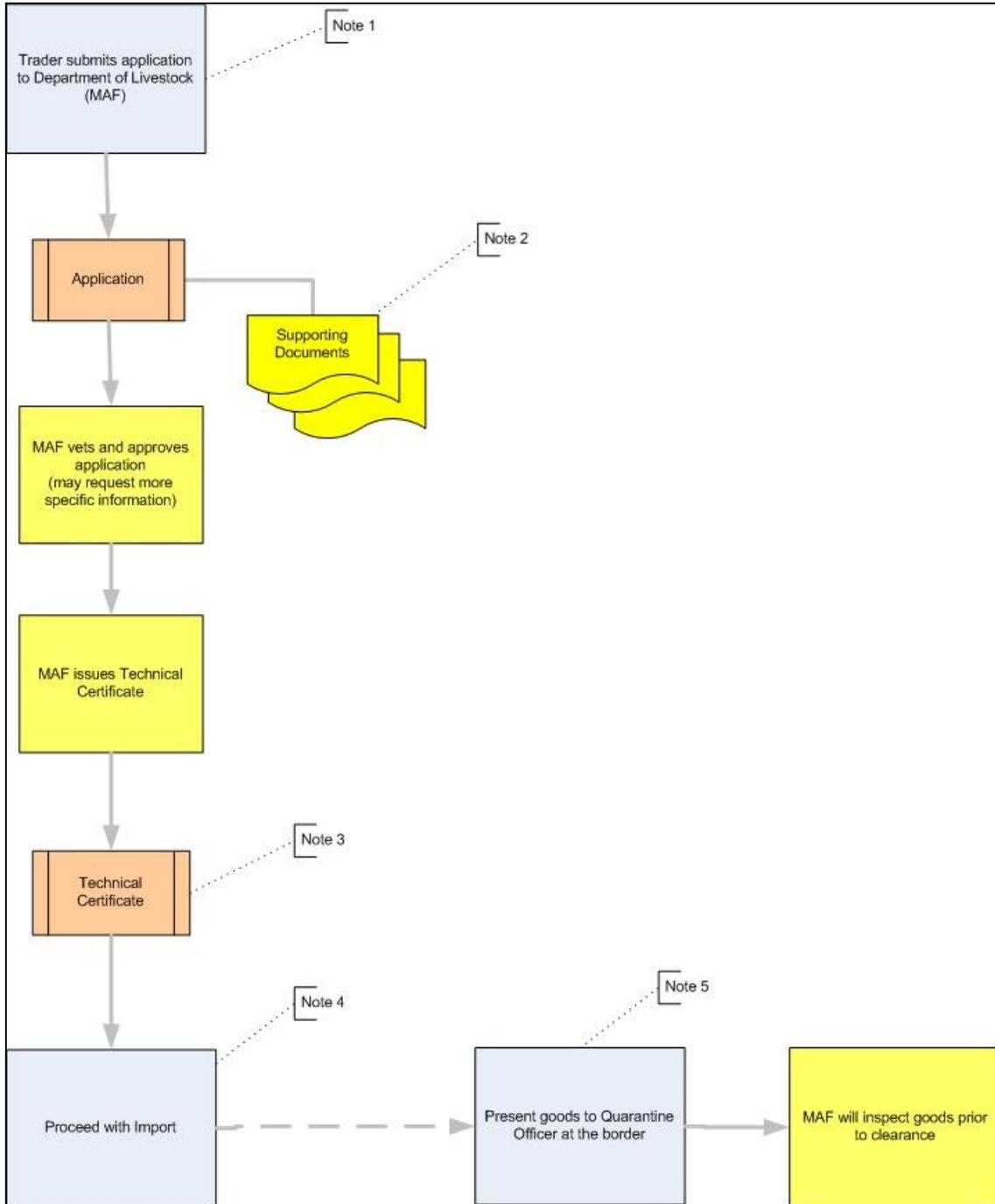
The Trader may now proceed with the normal Import Procedure

Note 7

When the goods arrive at the border the trader must present himself to the MAF Officer who will check the documents and will carry out a physical inspection of the goods to allow them to be cleared. The trader will submit a declaration specifically for MAF. If the goods are subject to quarantine the Trader may be required to keep the goods at his premises until they have been discharged by a MAF officer after the designated quarantine period.

Import of Livestock

Follow this procedure if you wish to import live animals. In order to import live animals you need to obtain a Technical Certificate from the Department of Livestock and Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.



Note 1

A trader wishing to import livestock for commercial purposes must present various documents to the Department of Livestock and Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in order to obtain a Technical Certificate. No application form is required and a covering letter requesting approval is sufficient.

Note 2

The request must be accompanied by a number of supporting documents that will enable MAF to assess the product. These documents may include a Health Certificate or a Vaccination Certificate and may vary from time to time and for each specific animal. MAF will advise you of which specific documents are required.

Note 3

MAF will issue the Technical Certificate. This document must be presented to Customs and to the MAF Inspector at the border when importing the goods.

Note 4

The Trader may now proceed with the normal Import Procedure.

Note 5

When the goods arrive at the border the trader must present himself to the MAF Officer who will check the documents and will carry out a physical inspection of the livestock to allow the consignment to be cleared. If the animals are subject to quarantine the Trader may be required to keep them at his premises until they have been discharged by a MAF officer after the designated quarantine period.

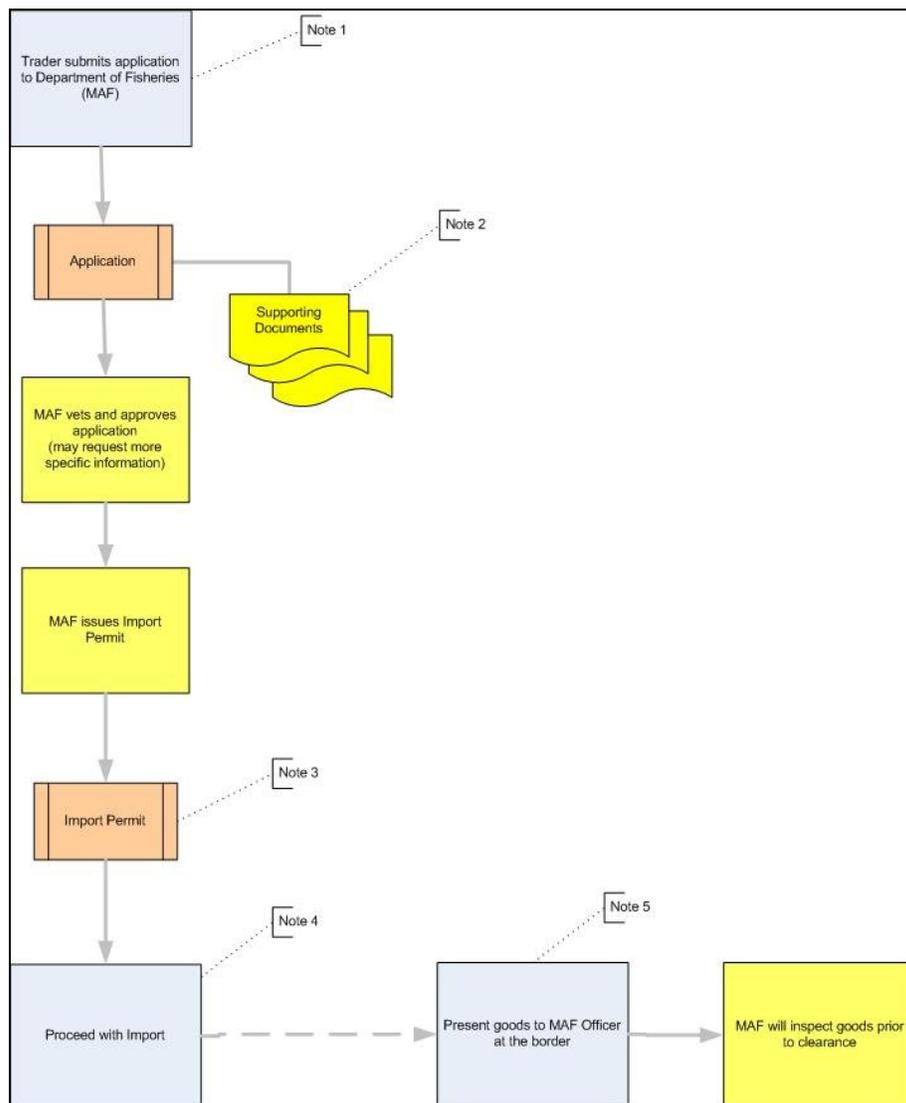
Import of Fish

You should follow this procedure if you intend to import fresh fish for consumption or for breeding or frozen fish.

Before you can import fish you must register your enterprise with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce together with a business plan which describes what specific activities you intend to carry out (e.g. breeding). This plan will be verified and approved by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. A business plan may be given approval for a limited period. For each individual importation you should submit to the Department of Livestock and Fisheries evidence of your company's registration and of your business plan.

The Department of Livestock and Fisheries will verify whether your importation conforms to the authorized business plan. If you want to change some of the conditions of the business plan or to enter into a different activity you should present a revised business plan to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Follow the following procedure for each importation.



Note 1

A trader wishing to import live fish or frozen fish must present various documents to the Department of Livestock and Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in order to obtain an Import Permit. No application form is required and a covering letter requesting approval is sufficient.

Note 2

The request must be accompanied by a number of supporting documents that will enable the department to assess the product. These documents may vary for each specific product and the department will advise you of which specific documents are required.

Note 3

The Department of Livestock and Fisheries will issue the Import Permit. This document is in the form of a letter and must be presented to Customs and to the MAF Inspector at the border when importing the goods.

Note 4

The Trader may now proceed with the normal Import Procedure.

Note 5

When the goods arrive at the border the trader must present himself to the MAF Officer who will check the documents and will carry out a physical inspection of the products to allow the consignment to be cleared.