

International Trade, Corey Norton, Chair

From Brett Williams (Australia):

Trade Facilitation Measures: Trusted Trade Programme

Australia is proceeding with measures to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement which will come into force when it is ratified by two-thirds of the Members of the WTO (at 15 July 2016, 86 of the 163 Members had ratified.) The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is continuing to hold information sessions on the Trusted Trade Programme (<https://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Trus/events>). In 2015 the Australian parliament passed the *Customs Amendment (Australia Trusted Trade Programme) Act 2015* which inserted Part XA (sections 176 – 179 into the Customs Act 1901. On 24 September, the Customs (Australian Trusted Trade Programme) Rule 2015, issued by the Comptroller of Customs in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, came into force. These set out more detailed rules for person applying to attain Trusted Trade status by entering into a trusted trade agreement. Applications for participation in the pilot programme closed on 30 April 2016 with 47 participants. It is anticipated that the range of benefits for Trusted Traders will expand in the 2017-2018 year. The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement contains an obligation under Article 7.7 to provide additional trade facilitation measures to “authorized operators”.