



Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Customs Department

PRESS RELEASE on

The 2025 Time Release Study for Trade Facilitation

[31st March 2026]

Outline

Myanmar Customs Department released the findings of the 2025 Time Release Study (TRS) conducted in the Asia World Port Terminal (Yangon) and the Yangon Air Cargo Terminal. The TRS measured and reported the time taken by the Customs Department and other government agencies to release imported cargoes.

The TRS is a method endorsed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) for measuring the time taken by authorities to release import/export cargo, and is recognized as a means of identifying bottlenecks and improving performance in import/export processes. Since the entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in February 2017, members have been required to measure and publish average release times of import/export goods (Article 7.6 of the TFA).

Mr. Thein Swe, the Director-General of Customs Department, said it was pleasing to see the results of the 2025 study which can assist in the implementation of the trade facilitation and to see the decrease in time of the import/export processes and the improvements in 2025, which he attributed largely to the efforts of Customs, trade-related agencies in working together to achieve a seamless flow of the trade supply chain.

The comparisons of the overall average release time of 2021 TRS, 2023 TRS, and 2025 TRS are summarized as follows, as a result of the 5th Time Release Study:

| Import Process | Survey Area | 2021 Overall average release time | 2023 Overall average release time | 2025 Overall average release time | The Difference in overall release time |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Vessel/aircraft Arrival up to physical removal of cargo at the terminal | The Asia World Port Terminal (Yangon) | 6 days 19 hours 49 minutes | | 4 days 5 hours 10minutes | 2 days 14 hours 39 minutes (Between 2021and 2025) |
| | Yangon Air Cargo Terminal | 4 days 2 hours 4 minutes | 2 days 22 hours | 2 days 20 hours 59 minutes | 1 hour 1 minute (Between 2023 and 2025) |

According to the result of the 2025 TRS Survey at The Asia World Port Terminal and Yangon Air Cargo Terminal, the causes of the reduction in the clearance time are found as follows:

- (1) Importers and Customs Brokers have already applied for and obtained import licenses before the arrival of the goods, thereby reducing the time required for declaration submission after the goods arrived.
- (2) Importers and customs brokers have increasingly maintained sufficient deposits for applicable duties and taxes. This, coupled

with the enhanced proficiency and widespread adoption of the MACCS Online Payment System (MOPS), has effectively minimized the time required for duty and tax payment processing.

- (3) Strengthened inter-agency collaboration between relevant governmental and private sector entities during the importation and inspection phases has resulted in a decrease in the turnaround time from the point of cargo arrival to the final release of goods.

Mr. Thein Swe, the Director-General of the Customs Department, extended his formal appreciation to the relevant authorities and the trading community for their invaluable contributions to the 2025 Time Release Study (TRS). Particular recognition was given to the TRS Working Group, various Other Government Agencies (OGAs), and private sector representatives for their technical advice and logistical support throughout the study.

Key findings and actions to be taken for further trade facilitation are (i) To continuously review the activities and performance of OGAs (Other Government Agencies) and the Private Sector (ii) To conduct educational and awareness programs for the trading community, including Customs Brokers (CB) and Importers (iii) to continue the implementation of the WTO TFA in accordance with international standards. It is also intended that regular Time Release Studies continue to be conducted.

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