



Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat (OCO)



OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANISATION

- **Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) is the regional Customs Secretariat that collaborates with Regional and Global partners to develop and deliver quality and sustainable Customs solutions to our 23 member administrations.**
- **OCO Members: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federates States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna.**
- **Based in Suva, Fiji**



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Role of Customs in a Free Trade Agreement

- In international trade, Customs play a critical role, not only in expedited clearance but also effective controls that secure revenue, ensure compliance with national laws and ensure security and protection of society.
- FTA's means to Customs, less goods to be cleared on MFN basis
- More goods will be subjected to the complex "Rules of Origin" scheme



Role of Customs in a Free Trade Agreement

- **FTA's contain a Chapter for Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation**
- **This Chapter ensures Customs follow best practices and principles aligned with RKC and other WCO Tools and instruments.**
- **FTA's layout institutional structures for smooth implementation of FTA's such as committees consisting members from institutions from each party**
- **Customs officers are expected to play a critical role in these committees during implementation**



Role of Customs in a Free Trade Agreement

- Each FTA is accompanied by a set of preferential rules of origin
- Implementation of Rules of Origin (ROO) is the key focus area of Customs
- Objectives of preferential rules of origin is the determination of qualification of goods to be traded under the FTA
- FTA's demand Customs officers not only to understand determination of rules of origin but also details of certification, verification and administrative procedures for preferential ROO



End of Presentation

Thank you

For further enquiries contact: JohnS@ocosec.org