



ACD Fast Facts - ASYCUDA

What is ASYCUDA?

ASYCUDA refers to the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) software that was designed by the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for automation of Customs processes. It has been undergoing implementation at the Afghan Customs Department (ACD) since 2004 as a component of the World Bank project.

The ASYCUDA Customs management system covers most foreign trade procedures. The system handles manifests and Customs declarations, accounting procedures, and transit and suspense procedures. It takes into account the international codes and standards developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the United Nations. It can also be configured to suit the national characteristics of individual Customs departments.

Why is ASYCUDA important for traders?

Automation is the core of Customs reform and trade facilitation. It not only expedites processing of Customs documents, but it also reduces physical interaction between officers and traders. This, in turn, reduces opportunity for corruption.

Automating the declarations forms, process and payment with ASYCUDA saves traders a considerable amount of time in the import and export process. It has allowed for the following:

- At the computerized ACD locations, 100 percent of the declarations are processed through the ASYCUDA, replacing the five copies of Customs forms (Afghan Customs Clearance Declaration) and other extra Customs forms used previously.
- A new declaration process has been implemented that drastically reduces the previous Customs clearance process.
- The entire Customs clearance process is fully automated and electronically available to both Customs officers and for Customs brokers/traders.
- The payment of Customs duties and taxes is made in a branch of the Afghan National Bank and confirmed electronically to the ASYCUDA system (Customs brokers have the option to use prepayment via ASYCUDA to further facilitate payment operations).



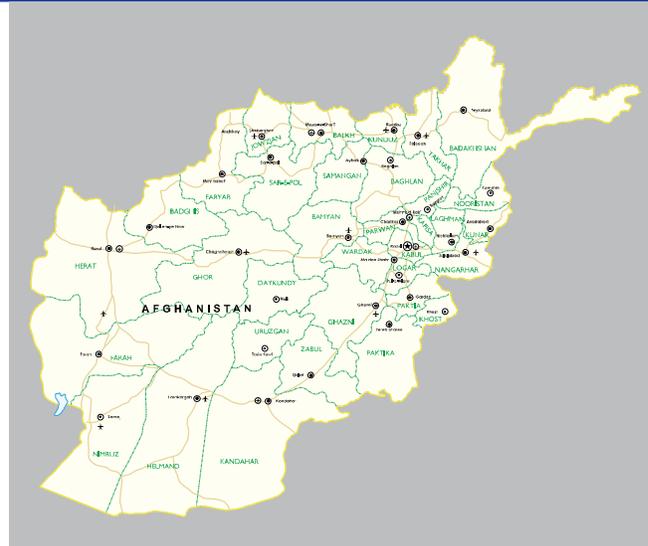
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Where has ASYCUDA been implemented in Afghanistan?

The ASYCUDA centralized server is operational at the ACD headquarters in Kabul.

The ASYCUDA Transit System is in operation on seven main transit routes:

- Torkham (border with Pakistan) – Jalalabad – Kabul
- Islam Qala (border with Iran) – Herat – Kabul
- Hairatan (border with Uzbekistan) – Mazar e Sharif – Kabul
- Towraghondi (border with Turkmenistan) – Herat – Kabul
- Sher Khan Bandar (border with Tajikistan) – Kunduz – Kabul
- Zaranj/Nimroz (border with Iran) – Kabul
- Weish (border with Pakistan) – Kandahar - Kabul



The ASYCUDA Declaration Processing System (DPS) is operational in seven main Inland Customs Depots: Kabul, Kabul International Airport, Jalalabad, Herat, Kunduz, Hairatan/Balkh and Zaranj/Nimroz. Efforts are also underway to implement it in Kandahar, the last major ICD awaiting automation.

Why is ASYCUDA important for ACD?

Updated reference data (tariff, etc) are automatically replicated from the central ACD ASYCUDA server to the local systems, which is an effective tool in applying the law nationwide in a consistent and effective manner.

The Customs inspectors are automatically (by the ACD ASYCUDA system) assigned for the physical inspection of goods, which is a strong anti-corruption measure.

All Customs declarations are automatically consolidated into the ACD central ASYCUDA system/database and subsequently used to produce accurate and timely statistics. And, ASYCUDA generates trade data that can be used for statistical economic analysis.

Utilizing the system has already resulted in enhanced revenue collection and compliance.