

# Brazilian National Single Window Project

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# 1 The Brazilian National Single Window Project

The creation of the Brazilian National Single Window Project – Portal Único Siscomex, is a Federal Government initiative aimed at reducing bureaucracy, time and costs in Brazilian exports and imports. It was launched in 2014 with the objective of more efficiently meeting the demands of Brazilian foreign trade, today and in the coming years. The main objectives of the project are to reformulate the export and import processes, making them more efficient and harmonized, and to create a single window to centralize the interaction between the government and private operators acting in foreign trade.

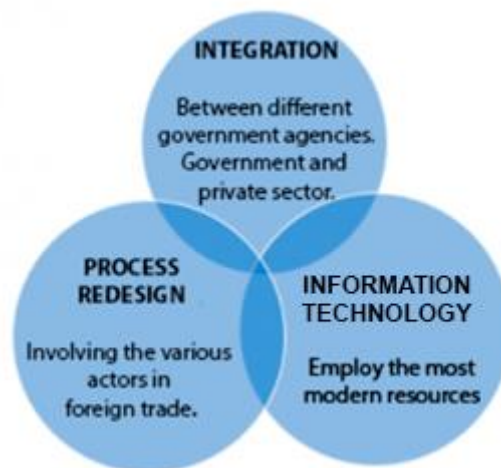
## The general objectives of the National Single Window Project are:

- Reduction of time for operations, through simplification and increase in efficiency and procedural speed;
- Greater transparency and predictability in export and import procedures.

## To achieve them, we seek, through the New Export and New Import Processes:

- Simplified access to the rules governing Brazilian exports and imports;
- Procedural efficiency based, for example, on parallelization of steps;
- Electronic attachment of documents;
- Centralized instrument for obtaining authorizations, certifications and licenses to export or import;
- Request for informations only once, followed by their distribution to the competent bodies;
- Coordination and harmonization of how the government agencies should act;
- Action based on risk management.

To this end, the National Single Window Project has three pillars:



## 1.1 Integration

Based on Decree No. 8,229 of 2014, twenty two government agencies are part of the National Single Window Project initiative, coordinated by the Foreign Trade Secretariat (Secex) and the Special Secretariat of the Federal Revenue of Brazil (RFB), both from the Ministry of Economy. The sharing of information about the processes between the interveners allowed to identify the mutual needs of the involved parties, bringing greater economy and predictability to the operators.

Furthermore, the cooperation of the private sector (the main beneficiary), with the project has been fundamental. Its different actors have participated in all stages, from mapping and building proposals for the new processes, to testing and feedback on the IT tools developed.

## 1.2 Process Redesign

In reviewing the export and import processes, the inefficiencies of the processes and their proposals for improvement were mapped according to the point of view of representatives of different categories of foreign trade professionals (exporters, importers, transporters, warehouses, customs brokers, among others). With the identification of bottlenecks and opportunities for improvement, maximum efficiency and the elimination of redundant or currently unnecessary steps and requirements were sought.

The review of the processes took place in partnership with the private sector, following the steps below:

- Mapping and analysis of the processes then in effect;
- Preparation and validation of a proposal for the new processes; and
- Gradual implementation.

We sought to understand the role of the actors, the chain of activities, from the intention to export and import, to the delivery of goods and the flow of information. The performance and information needs of sixteen consenting agencies, the RFB (the agency responsible for customs control), and the state tax authorities were also detailed.

## 1.3 Information Technology

To implement the new processes, the most modern technological resources have been used. Several new tools are being developed using the Agile Methodology, in order to better manage these processes. Additionally, some existing systems have gone through evolutions and integration solutions, in order to allow data already collected to be shared with others that need it.

### 1.3.1 Single Window approach

The National Single Window Project was conceived using the Single Window approach, used by several countries and internationally recommended for the development of foreign trade solutions. Its establishment has been widely regarded as an essential facilitation measure for a modern and competitive foreign trade system.

Based on this approach, the National Single Window Project aims to create an information technology system through which foreign trade operators and actors can forward documents or data required by the government for export and import, or transit of goods, to a single point of entry accessible via the Internet: the Portal Único Siscomex.

Under the new system, the information and documents sent are electronically distributed, in a standardized and harmonized way, to the bodies and entities of the Public Administration that request them. After analyzing the documents or data received, the participating bodies and entities notify private operators in foreign trade of the result of this analysis through the Single Window itself. Once data or documents have

already been received by the Portal Único Siscomex, the same data or documents will be shared by the bodies, in order to minimize the repeated provision of information in paper documents or different systems.

The information received through the Portal Único Siscomex implies a unified foreign trade database, which is shared with participating Public Administration bodies and entities, within the limits of their respective competences. This sharing allows for auditing actions, better risk management and the formation of statistics and performance indices.

User access to Siscomex is through a digital signature and digital certificate issued within the scope of the Brazilian Public Key Infrastructure – ICP-Brasil. The Siscomex will allow, in the future, the sending and receiving of digital documents signed by digital signature, eliminating papers.

## 2 Objectives of the National Single Window Project

### 2.1 Time reduction

It is estimated that the reduction in terms of time elapsed during the trade operations will have a transforming impact on the behavior of companies in relation to foreign trade, with profound consequences for attracting investments, Brazil's insertion in global markets and the expansion of Brazilian exports. The objective is to shorten deadlines (and, consequently, the costs of exports and imports), improve the business environment and increase Brazil's competitiveness in the international market. The reduction goals initially established were:

| Export and Import order times |                                       |                                      |                    |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Type                          | Before National Single Window Project | After National Single Window Project | Document reduction |
| Exports                       | 13 days                               | 8 days                               | 99%                |
| Imports                       | 17 days                               | 10 days                              |                    |

In addition to the elimination of documents and the providing of redundant data by operators, the New Export Process reduced the procedural steps and, consequently, the times for exports. The automatic use of data from electronic invoices made it easier to fill out export declarations and brought more agility in customs clearance. The adoption of a new control system for export cargo brought the government's actions closer to logistics management, improving the efficiency of shipments abroad. With the implementation of the New Export Process, 100% implemented in October 2018, the first goal has already been surpassed.

It is also sought to enable that, when inspections by more than one government agency are necessary for the release of the same cargo, these take place in a coordinated and joint manner. Thus, the deadlines for the release of goods, storage and movement costs in the premises and the risk of damage to the goods will be reduced, since the cargo will be opened and handled only once.

## 2.2 Transparency and predictability

The Portal is being developed based on the Agile Software Methodology and has been implemented through gradual and progressive delivery.

In line with article 1 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on Publication and availability of information, the first delivery was the website Siscomex, which allows access, in one single place, to:

- The Single Window and other foreign trade systems (in the process of integration);
- Siscomex Import and Export News, and news about foreign trade and the National Single Window Project advances;
- All legislation that supports the controls exercised by government agencies; and
- Services such as:
  - i. Comex Responde (COMEX ANSWERS), a service available for solving doubts, by the competent bodies, on matters relating to foreign trade.
  - ii. Public simulators of the treatment of operations by the Public Administration.

With the National Single Window Project, all requirements, licenses or authorizations directly applicable to trade operations must be demanded from operators through the Single Window System – Portal Único Siscomex. Thus, when accessing the Siscomex Portal, private players in foreign trade operations will have knowledge of all the requirements they must meet to complete their operations. By making all the necessary information available in a single place, the costs of obtaining it are reduced. With the assurance that all requirements are through Siscomex, operations become more predictable and secure.

The integration of the actions and systems of intervening bodies of the Public Administration also allows for a more accurate organization of the set of informations relating to foreign trade operations. Based on this organized information, new indices and performance indicators of foreign trade players will be created, in order to allow users to assess the efficiency of the performance of each actor in the processes. The existence of bottlenecks will be evidenced, allowing timely corrective actions.

Finally, a validation/training environment was also made available, which simulates the operation of the new system, launched on December 20, 2016, bringing greater transparency and partnership with the private sector. It enables operators to:

- Conduct their tests and training;
- Validate the suitability and security of the developed solutions;
- Start adapting their systems for integration with the Single Window Portal;
- Suggest improvements and report any system failures and inconsistencies.

## 2.3 Program status

### 2.3.1 DU-E - Unique Export Declaration (Declaração Única de Exportação)

#### ***Already in full production.***

The New Export Process is 100% implemented, bringing simplification that provides greater efficiency, predictability and cost reduction for operators.

The New Export Process promoted:

- Reduction in the number of documents → Unique Export Declaration (DU-E);
- Integration with the electronic invoice;
- 60% reduction in data filling (from 98 to 36 data);
- Automation of information conference;
- Parallel steps: procedural speed;
- Comprehensive licensing for more than one operation;
- Transfer of controls that occur beforehand and during the operation for a posteriori control; and
- A new Single Transit and Cargo Control System.

The consolidation of the Export Registration and the Export Declaration in a single document, as well as the integration and reuse of various informations from the Invoice (classification and description of goods and quantities, among others) drastically reduced the data to be filled in by exporters.

With the integration of the actions of Organs consenting bodies, several opportunities for the automation of procedural steps emerged, with significant time savings. The change of procedural flows from the current sequential model to a parallel model brought new time gains, as independent steps can be performed at the same time, instead of keeping the conclusion of one for the beginning of the other.

In addition, the new Cargo and Transit Control System is also being developed, independent of the transport mode, which will control the inventory of the custom's hall, registration based on transported volumes, among others.

There will also be the possibility of obtaining licenses, certificates and permissions for more than one operation, which makes it possible to reduce controls at each shipment of goods.

Finally, the timely availability of quality information for government agencies involved in foreign trade will allow controls currently carried out in advance or during operations to migrate to posterior moments - as of 2019.

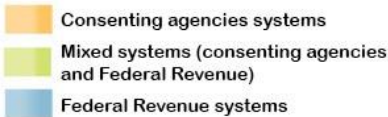
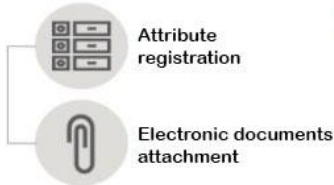
Even with the New Export Process fully operational since October 2018, there is permanent work to improve the system and processes to ensure better use of the solutions already delivered.

There are [training](#) and [production](#) environments for the New Export Process of the Single Window System available to Brazilian foreign trade operators. The export process was redesigned, simplified and built in close partnership with the private sector.

# Single Window Siscomex

DU-E

## Transversal systems



### 2.3.2 DUIMP - Unique Import Declaration (Declaração Única de Importação)

#### *In phase of gradual implementation – Pilot project.*

As well as the changes that have occurred in the operationalization of Brazilian exports, the New Import Process, which has already been the subject of public consultation and is under development, will also bring simplification and greater efficiency, predictability and cost reduction for its actors, both public and private.

The new import process will promote:

- Creation of the Unique Import Declaration (Duimp – Declaração Única de Importação), which will replace the current Import Declaration (DI – Declaração de Importação) and Simplified Import Declaration (DSI – Declaração Simplificada de Importação);
- Possibility of early registration of the declaration and early risk management;
- A single place to apply for import licenses;
- Possibility of granting licenses for more than one operation;
- Inspection of consenting bodies based on Duimp data and risk management;
- Single Inspection Window for the performance of all agencies.

The current DI (Import Declaration) and DSI (Simplified Import Declaration) will be consolidated in the Unique Import Declaration, which can be registered even before the arrival of the goods in Brazil, anticipating the analysis of risks of the operation and the procedures related to it.

Furthermore, the inspection of the consenting agencies based on Duimp's data will allow the parallelization of processes and the performance of the bodies involved in imports.

Based on the principle of gradual and progressive deliveries, which has been guiding, since its beginning, the development and implementation of the National Single Window Project, the first phase of the New Import Process configured a pilot project that covered operations carried out by companies certified as Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) – Full and C2 categories – and importers operating on behalf of these companies, via maritime transport, with full payment of taxes and who do not need an import license.

Since July 2021, however, the Unique Import Declaration – Duimp, can already be used by non-Authorized Economic Operators, in addition to allowing registration and transmission through a web service. There was also an increase in the number of operations subject to licensing by the consenting bodies, which can take place via Duimp.

Among the novelties made available in the pilot, we highlight the extension of AEO benefits to imports promoted by agents acting on behalf of companies with such certification and the implementation of the Product Catalog, a tool that allows the importer to describe, in a standardized way, the characteristics of his merchandise, which facilitates the reuse of information for future transactions, reduces the number of errors in filling in the declarations and speeds up the analysis of operations by the Public Administration. In the same module, the importer will also be able to provide accurate data about their international suppliers.

When fully implemented, the New Import Process will simplify and reduce bureaucracy in customs procedures, with the resulting reduction in time and cost for private operators and control bodies, in a joint effort between public administration and society in search of improving the environment providing greater competitiveness for Brazilian companies in the international scenario.

It is important to point out that all projections of evolutions and updates of the New Import Process (and the other modules and functionalities of the National Single Window Project) are readily available (in Portuguese language) on the SISCOMEX website, in the section “Cronograma de implementação” - Implementation schedule).

<http://siscomex.gov.br/conheca-o-programa/cronograma-de-implementacao/>

## Single Window Siscomex

### Transversal systems



- Consenting agencies systems
- Mixed systems (consenting agencies and Federal Revenue)
- Federal Revenue systems





### 3 Main benefits of the National Single Window Project

In summary, the main benefits of the new processes are:

- The creation of the Unique Export Declaration (DU-E) and the Unique Import Declaration (Duimp), with replacement of redundant documents and reduction in the provision of informations;
- Integration of DU-E with the Electronic Invoice, allowing automatic data feeding, information integrity, less possibility of errors and greater ease in verifying exports;
- Reduction and optimization of steps that need manual data and document verification for each operation, through the use of automated technologies;
- Possibility of comprehensive authorization to more than one operation, which enables the reduction of controls from operation to operation;
- Possibility of carrying out simultaneous customs and non-customs controls of goods, to the detriment of sequential steps;
- Intensive use of risk management;
- Integration of foreign trade systems and processes, and centralization of communication between private operators and government agencies and entities in a single location; and
- Continuous improvement of the governance of the controls of foreign trade operations, based on coordinated and harmonized action.

These changes lead to the reduction of times and related costs in foreign trade operations, increasing the competitiveness and international insertion of Brazilian companies, enabling their greater collaboration with the national economy.

Version 10/14/2021