

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



An agreement was signed between the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Bahamas Customs and Excise Department (BCED) in March 2018 to provide technical assistance capacity building in a comprehensive organizational development and training program.

Under this program, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a Time Release Study (TRS) has been planned since it is an internationally recognized tool used for measuring the time it takes to clear goods from arrival at the point of entry of the Bahamas territory to the moment of actual release of the goods.

This first TRS was conducted, by a TRS team appointed by the Comptroller of BCED, between 23rd January to 13th February 2019 at the Arawak Port Development, Kelly's Dock. It covered the data collection of 200 shipments and their related manifests. It focused on the following phases from:

- the arrival times of the vessels,
- the offloading times of the shipments,
- the examinations and released time.

The average time from the arrival of the vessel at Kelly's Dock to clearance of the shipment was of: **20hrs and 42mins**. The shortest time recorded was **2hrs and 13mins** and the longest time recorded was **24 days 14hr and 56mins**.

Between the longest and the shortest times, the TRS team observed a major gap of more than 24 days. Therefore, the average time is not meaningful in reflecting the main duration time.

This study may not be a true reflection of the accuracy and efficiency of the BCED or the Betty K agency as it relates to the time it takes to clear goods. As it stands the control of whether or not the goods are cleared in a more desirable time frame depends on the individual importer.

In the conclusion part of this report, some recommendations have been drawn up for the next TRS that is expected to be done once the Single Window is rolled-out at the end of 2019.

It should be noted that this TRS was undertaken prior to implementation of the Electronic Single Window, Click2Clear (C2C) and will be used as a base to measure the clearance time post C2C implementation.