Making Trade Easier

ACTS is based on a secure and resilient online network that links all Customs offices on the transit route with Customs offices at the points of departure and destination.

Benefiting Traders

Qualified traders can make a single electronic goods declaration, which is valid at all entry and exit points of all ASEAN borders for Customs formalities. It also provides traders with real-time ACTS movement information. A single declaration and common risk management protocols provides qualified traders with simplified procedures, and maximizes efficiency for legitimate trade. The system reduces paperwork and minimizes truck idling time, which benefit the business environment and operations.

Benefiting Customs Offices

ACTS allows Customs offices to identify irregularities quickly, and manage movements and guarantees efficiently. This means Customs officials can target illegal activities and smuggled goods more effectively, enhancing consumer safety.

Benefiting Transporters and Drivers

In addition, mutual recognition by Member States of transport documents, including vehicle inspection certificates and driving licences, results in minimal movement restrictions on approved trucks or drivers.

Enhancing ASEAN Connectivity

ACTS is available along a North-South corridor through Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, and an East-West corridor through Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. There are plans to expand the use of ACTS to Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines, according to business needs.

Further Information

A dedicated portal provides access to all ACTS-related information. It includes:

- A comprehensive guide for traders to access the system and make declarations to ACTS.
- Information on how to contact the ACTS national and regional helpdesks.
- Details of the documents and relevant legal agreements that make ACTS work.
- A set of Frequently Asked Questions.

Visit https://acts.asean.org for more information.

ASEAN Customs Transit System

Accelerating Trade

Businesses, governments and consumers all benefit.

ACTS is supported by the European Union through the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE Plus).
The ASEAN Customs Transit System

Accelerating Trade

The ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) makes it quicker and easier to move goods across the borders of ASEAN Member States. This will help drive economic growth and benefit everyone living in the region.

Customs transit - the movement of commercial goods across national borders - is one of the key aims of ASEAN integration, and is vital to the growth and prosperity of ASEAN businesses.

ACTS, which allows cross-border traders and Customs brokers to make a single electronic Customs declaration, enables goods to move more freely from the point of departure through transit to the point of destination. ACTS enables this by temporarily suspending import duties and taxes, which simplifies and speeds Customs clearance formalities.

The AEC Blueprint 2025 aims to increase integration, cohesion, competition, innovation and connectivity across the 10 ASEAN Member States, and improve integration with the global economy. ACTS supports these objectives.

For the AEC to succeed, ASEAN needs a Customs and trading environment that allows goods to move more freely across national borders. This will enhance the region’s trade and production networks, establish a more unified market for businesses and consumers, and catalyse greater people-to-people, institutional and infrastructure connectivity.

ACTS in Action

Authorised Traders

All traders are eligible to use ACTS to transport goods across borders but must be registered as transit traders with the Customs Administrations of participating Member States. They include:

- Importers and exporters
- Freight forwarders
- Transporters and sub-contractors
- Customs agents.

Recognised reliable traders can apply to be approved as Authorised Transit Traders (ATT), with enhanced privileges that include permission to start transit movements from their own premises at departure, and to deliver to their own premises at destination. National competent authorities determine the qualifying criteria for traders in their countries for departure and/or destination.

ACTS Objectives

- Increase the efficiency of moving goods across land transport routes.
- Reduce transaction costs and movement time for the trading community.
- Improve the prevention and detection of smuggling and fraud.

The Legal Basis

The legal basis for the implementation of ACTS is the 1998 ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and its supporting Protocols. Protocol 7 is the basis for the Customs procedures and requirements of ACTS. The objective of AFAFGIT is to create an environment in which a vehicle operating under the transit system can move goods by road from a point of departure in any ASEAN Member State to a point of destination in any other Member State via any number of transit countries with minimal procedures at borders.

Driving economic growth

The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 was a milestone in regional economic integration, offering the opportunities of a huge market of US$3 trillion and over 622 million people.

Reliable Guarantees

ACTS is supported by a flexible and secure guarantee based on actual consignment values and levels of risk, which may be waived or reduced for Authorised Transit Traders as approved by Customs Authorities in each country. A single guarantee taken out at departure covers the transit movement from start to finish. ACTS provides Customs with an effective environment for managing guarantees.