



## *the* **TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP**

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) levels the playing field for American workers and American businesses, leading to more Made-in-America exports and more higher-paying American jobs here at home. By cutting over 18,000 taxes various countries put on Made-in-America products, TPP makes sure our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and small businesses can compete—and win—in some of the fastest growing markets in the world. With more than 95 percent of the world’s consumers living outside our borders, TPP will significantly expand the export of Made-in-America goods and services and support American jobs.



## **Streamlining Customs & Cutting Red Tape**

TPP ensures that trade in goods among TPP countries is efficient, with effective and transparent procedures that help move goods as quickly as possible across borders. This is particularly important to small and medium-sized businesses, which often find complex customs and border procedures among the most serious obstacles to increasing their exports.

### **HOW TPP STREAMLINES CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AND CUTS RED TAPE**

TPP reduces costs for legitimate traders; strengthens enforcement at the border; and provides benefits to small businesses, for whom paperwork costs and delays can make the difference between being competitive or not. TPP requires countries to:

- **Publish all customs laws, regulations, and procedures on the Internet**, including in English whenever possible.
- Ensure that to the greatest extent possible, **shipments move through ports within a time period no longer than necessary to comply with customs laws**, and countries provide advance rulings on valuation and other matters to **avoid unnecessary delays on arrival**.
- **Provide expedited customs treatment to express delivery shipments**, and set *'de minimis'* levels for low-value shipments under which customs will not impose tariffs.

- **Strengthen cooperation against illegal trade in counterfeit goods, wildlife trafficking, and goods illegally transshipped** through TPP countries from third countries to evade tariffs.
- **Administer customs penalties impartially**, with rules to avoid conflicts of interest.

These common-sense reforms and efficiency measures will enable American small businesses, farmers and ranchers to reach their customers more cheaply and quickly, strengthen the hand of law enforcement in fighting threats to public health, safety and the global environment, and enhance the competitiveness of our workers and businesses.



- In some countries, **expensive and time-consuming customs processes** can pose as great a **challenge to U.S. exports** as tariffs.
- TPP's Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation chapter **streamlines paperwork and reduces costs**, easing the movement of lawfully traded goods through ports and air cargo terminals.
- TPP's customs reforms are **especially valuable to small businesses** that rely on express delivery, farmers that need to get perishable products to market quickly, and manufacturers in sectors such as IT and autos who rely on just-in-time delivery.
- TPP **strengthens cooperation** among the 12 partners' customs services, enhancing their ability to **protect public health** by cracking down on dangerous counterfeit products.
- TPP also **combats the illegal transshipment of goods** from third countries and **supports conservation efforts** by tracking shipments of wildlife and illegal logging and fishing products.
- TPP further **improves fairness, cuts costs and avoids slowdowns** in shipments by **reducing opportunities for corruption** and the arbitrary assessment of penalties.

## What's in the Trans-Pacific Partnership?

Learn everything you need to know about what's in the deal and who it helps.

[WWW.USTR.GOV/TPP](http://WWW.USTR.GOV/TPP)