**Expected Benefits for Government**

**Improved compliance.** The need to heighten control in the face of increased risks has made it increasingly difficult for border control agencies to enforce regulations by manual processes. ASW’s electronic environment ensures operational transparency and promotes compliance.

**Improved risk and profile management.** The interoperability of the ASW and NSWs will allow officials to cross-check and cross-reference government and commercial cross-border documents with national relational databases and other intelligence systems.

**Mutual Recognition Agreements.** ASW gives Member States an opportunity to gradually rely on each other’s control systems, such that if a check is conducted in one country, it is not repeated in the other country. This will further strengthen regional integration.

**Predictability.** As the clearance process gradually becomes paperless, the government will be able to provide traders a more predictable and more efficient environment.

**Disaster management.** In the event of a disaster, the ASW and NSWs could be used to expedite clearance of relief supplies by allowing for the electronic exchange of key data among agencies and by integrating pre-approved relief agency codes into the ASW Regional Services Reference Data System.

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**ASEAN Single Window**

**Expected Benefits for Business and Government**
Through the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint adopted in 2007, ASEAN leaders committed to transform ASEAN by 2015 into a single market and production base and a highly competitive economic region, one characterized by equitable economic development and fully integrated into the global economy.

- A single market for goods and services will facilitate the development of regional production networks and enhance ASEAN’s capacity to serve as a global production center or as a part of the global supply chain.
- Key to the free flow of goods are trade facilitation measures, such as the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and the harmonization and integration of customs procedures, as well as the removal of tariffs and nontariff barriers.

### ASW Context

**EXPECTED BENEFITS FOR BUSINESS**

**Nearly paperless clearance in ASEAN.** NSWs are already providing some paperless services to traders; electronic data exchange through ASW will further reduce reliance on paper documents.

**More efficient and predictable supply chain management.** Exchange and availability of electronic regulatory or commercial data will improve national track-and-trace capabilities and provide traders a more predictable environment.

**Robust legal framework:** The ASW Legal Framework Agreement, now under development, will include provisions for data protection and confidentiality, acceptance of electronic signatures, use of electronic evidence in judicial proceedings, and legal liability, among others.

**Data re-use.** Several NSWs in ASEAN already exchange standardized cross-border regulatory and commercial data electronically. Extending such exchange through the ASW will make it easier for traders to re-use data, for example, to automatically derive customs declaration from commercial documents, freight papers, export declaration, etc.

**Reduced cost of doing business.** Electronic exchange of data will reduce traders’ costs, including costs for couriers, storage, documentation errors, and cash flow.

### ASW Objectives

- **Accelerate the release of cargo and reduce trade transaction costs and times.**
- **Facilitate the free flow of goods and promote the harmonization of standards and conformance procedures.**
- **Facilitate coordination and partnership among customs administrations and other government agencies.**
- **Promote the integration and transparency of customs procedures and the sharing of customs intelligence for improved and modernized risk management.**

### PRIMARY ASW Function

ASW provides the secure IT architecture—and legal framework—that will allow trade, transport, and commercial data to be exchanged electronically among government agencies or the trading community to support cargo clearance.

Through the ASW Pilot Project several Member States are exchanging ASEAN preferential certificates of origin and export declaration on a test basis. Data may be exchanged with non-ASEAN trading partners in the future.

ASW will enhance the ability of NSWs to expedite clearance through the electronic exchange of data among regulatory agencies and traders alike.