



SDS Project - Single Window

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What is a Single Window?

A single window aims to simplify the information flows between industry and the government. It can provide a number of services and facilities, depending on the design and coverage. These can include, submission of customs declarations and required permits through a single point, processing of these applications by either the single window or the relevant responsible government agency and may also include a single point of response.

Definition of a Single Window?

“A facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardised information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export and transit related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic, then individual data elements should only be submitted once.”

What are the Benefits?

A Single Window can achieve a number of benefits for both the government and industry.

Some of the benefits for government are:

- Effective and efficient deployment of resources;
- Correct revenue yield;
- Improved trader compliance;
- Enabling the use of sophisticated risk management techniques for control and enforcement purposes;
- Enhanced supply chain security; and
- Increased integrity and transparency.

Benefits for industry include:

- Cutting costs through reducing delays;
- Predictable application and explanation of rules;
- Faster clearance and release; and
- Increased transparency.

International Models for a Single Window

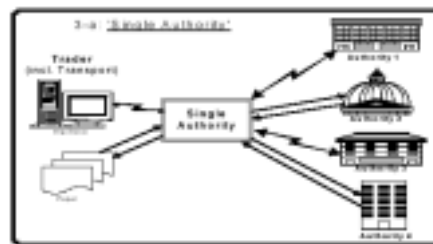
The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) has developed a set of guidelines for establishing a Single Window known as Recommendation 33. These guidelines were approved in October 2004.

Recommendation 33 is designed to assist government and industry in the development of a single window. It contains three of the most

common single window models, which are described below.

A Single Authority

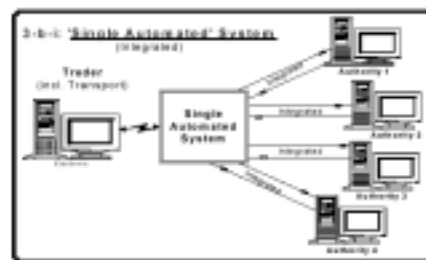
This model receives the required international trade data and it forwards this information to all the relevant government agency's involved.



A Single Automated System

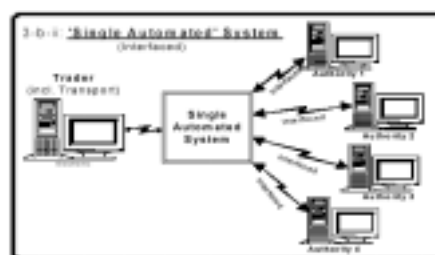
This model integrates the electronic collection, use and dissemination (and storage) of international trade data. It outlines three ways in which the system can distribute this information.

- Integrated: Data is processed through the Single Window; or
- Interfaced: Data is sent to the agency for processing
- A combination of a) and b).



An automated Information Transaction system

In this model the trader can submit electronic trade declarations to the various government agencies for processing and approval in a single application.



Australian Standardised Data Set (SDS) Project Single Window Options

As part of the SDS Project, and in consultation with government and industry stakeholders, four SDS / single window options have been developed. These options will be further refined as we continue our stakeholder consultation and will be presented to government on 31 October 2005.

Below is a short description of some of the features available in each option:

Option A – Implementation of the SDS into the Current Environment

Option A will see the implementation of the Australian Standardised Data Set (SDS) into the current environment. It is independent of a single window. The SDS will be mandated as the design standard for development of systems relating to international trade.

Implementation can be achieved in two ways:

- All G2G and B2G messaging will be mandated to accommodate the SDS standard by a particular date; and/or
- Agencies will be required to use the SDS when developing new systems or data exchange processes. Also, agencies will retrofit the SDS standard into their existing systems where there is a cost benefit.

Option B – Front End with Single Window Capabilities

This option establishes an electronic entry point for all Australian international trade regulatory requirements and a limited degree of new “back-end” connectivity. This will build on existing capabilities within government and provide additional functionality for Licences, Certificates and Permits (LCP) as well as conveyance and crew reporting requirements. It should be noted that the use of the front-end does not mandate the replacement of existing online B2G or G2G arrangements.

Option B includes an online help function to assist the trader in identifying the required LCP's for particular goods transactions and crew and conveyance requirements. There will be the ability for web-based submission of those LCP's and conveyance/crew reporting. The single window will also establish Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) connectivity for LCP's and conveyance/crew reporting.

The Australian SDS will be used in the design of the intelligent forms to simplify data collection in the single window.

Option C – Fully Functional Domestic Single Window

Option C will see the single window as the hub of all government related international trade reporting, providing a single point of reference for all trade related information. It provides a more complete picture of the trade regulatory data collected by

Australian government agencies and will be mandatory for all import, export and transit reporting requirements for cargo, conveyances and crew.

This option uses the Australian SDS as the basis for a federated database holding all regulatory international trade data. There will be a report generation capability including statistical extraction with access meeting security and privacy restrictions.

The domestic single window will involve inter agency collaboration resulting in the alignment and streamlining of agency processes. LCP's will be reviewed to develop simplified and standardised processes with agency business rules built into the automated LCP applications, messaging and approvals system.

Other features will include:

- Integrated transaction status reports;
- Improved risk assessment capabilities;
- Connectivity to or integration of seaports systems; and
- Online help and tiered helpdesk support.

Option D – International Single Window

This option capitalises on moves by government and industry to better manage the international supply chain. Option D seeks to collect data at its source and exchange information with other governments and/or overseas commercial entities regarding the movement of goods, conveyance and crew. It should be noted that this option could be implemented concurrently with either option B or C.

Option D will establish international Business-to-Government (B2G) and Government-to-Government (G2G) data exchange. The resulting system will accept data in international or other governments' standards and will convert and hold that information in a database built to the Australian SDS standard. That data is then sent to agencies using the Option B or C single window system.

This option will require a Unique Consignment Reference (UCR) number or a similar track and trace audit trail system to match the information about the consignment with the consignment through the international supply chain.

The connectivity could be built country by country and will be dependent on the cooperation of overseas governments and/or transnational enterprises.

For more information on the Standardised Data Set (SDS) project, please address your enquires to:

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