



GHANA - Case Study

Background

In April 2000, the Government of the Republic of Ghana introduced a Destination Inspection scheme (DI). This move away from Pre-Shipment Inspection aimed to reduce the volume of physical inspections and facilitate trade with the objective of establishing Ghana as a “Gateway” into the sub-region.

Objectives: facilitate legitimate trade in Tema & Takoradi ports and protect Customs’ revenues

Approach: introduce a combination of risk management and scanning services

Results: facilitation of legitimate trade and protection of Customs’ revenues

Approach

Through its Ghanaian registered affiliate, Gateway Services Limited (GSL), Cotecna was a pioneer in developing and implementing a highly innovative and tailor made Destination Inspection service aimed at facilitating legitimate trade by introducing combined risk management (CRMS®) and scanning services at the port of Tema. GSL was the first inspection company to use a high powered fixed scanner in the context of Destination Inspection.

The Tema port is an important transit port for land-locked countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger and represents an important trade destination and a vital part of the Ghanaian economy. The port has seen a dramatic increase in the volume of container traffic since 2001. In light of the growing volumes of cargo handled at the port, local authorities required sophisticated technology to achieve speedy clearance and eliminate delays, whilst ensuring maximum efficiency.

Cotecna’s approach to implementing Destination Inspection services is as follows. We:

- use advanced technology and services to assess risk (CRMS®, Scanner technology)
- limit the need for physical inspection of containers by focusing on “high risk” imports
- ensure a more efficient allocation of Customs’ resources by designating the appropriate level of intervention required for each import transaction
- enable speedier clearance for “low risk” importers which contributes to port decongestion
- reduce business costs for all parties
- protect vital Customs revenues

Results

The results of the implementation of Destination Inspection in Ghana:

Physical inspection of containers was reduced by 40% in the first year thanks to the implementation of new technologies and modernized Customs processes.

Legitimate trade was facilitated by the implementation of X-ray scanning and computerized risk management.

Construction of a highly equipped office with computers and necessary communication facilities for Customs, Port authorities, agents/importers and GSL staff at the scanner site in Tema Port.

Revenue collections increased on average by 22% annually since 2002 and targets exceeded by 8% in 2008.

Decongestion of the port and decreased processing times thanks to the use of scanning and risk management. In 2009, 52% of containers were scanned.

Modernization of Customs, by training and transfer of technical knowledge, contribute to an increase in Customs revenues.

Investment

Over the past 10 years of this contract, Cotecna has invested more than EUR 10 million in scanner equipment and infrastructure.