

Adoption Of Technology In The Hides, Skins And Leather Trade.

Kentrade As A Tool To Do Business.

Hides, Skins And Leather Trade Before Kentrade

- Hides and skins are traded internationally at all stages of production and finally as products;
- DVS is vested with the clearance of hides, skins and leather for disease control measures;
- The clearance of hides, skins, leather and leather products was done manually;
- The physical documents were moved from KRA, DVS and KRA;
- The following was the procedure followed:
- Initially the owner of the goods would call an inspector of hides and skins from DVS to witness loading the goods into the container;

- The DVS inspector and KRA stuffing officer would proceed to verify and ascertain that only the goods declared are loaded into the container;
- After ascertaining the weight of hides and skins or the square feet of the leather being exported the container would be sealed;
- The officer would issue the owner with an inspection certificate;
- The goods once verified would be taken to the port of exit or the inland container depot (ICD) in Nairobi;
- The owner would lodge the export documents with KRA and eventually, physically take the documents to Kabete for physical verification of duty payment and eventual payment of Veterinary Services Development Fund (VSDF);
- DVS leather office would receive more than 100 documents per week, verification would take a minimum of three to four days to verify and clear the documents.

- This long time was due to minor errors such as undervaluation, under payment, cheque not written correctly etc;
- This led to delayed shipment and a times missing the ship all together;
- Sometime the officers would work late and over the weekend to assist the client in the office;
- Payment was also manual through a bankers cheque to the DVS which also took time to clear, sometime fraud was observed.

Kentrade As Tool Of Easing Trade.

- The government created Kentrade as a platform to assist traders and KRA in the export and import of goods;
- The platform assists in the online declaration, lodging of documents and clearance of goods and in our case hides, skins, leather and leather products;
- DVS has several commodities that are operated through Kentrade portal, they include hides, skins, leather and leather products, food of animal origin, semen and embryos, animal vaccines and live animals;
- The introduction of kentrade was slow at first, but now has picked and all exports and imports at the DVS are done through the portal;

- In the export of hides, skins, leather and leather products the process is the same as in the old system but done online:
- The client calls a DVS inspector who visits his premises to oversee loading of the container and sealing of it;
- The correct weight is taken at a weigh bridge and the owner of the goods lodges the documents electronically to KRA, if the goods are taxable the relevant taxes are computed and sent to the client for payment.
- The client pays the requisite tax and sends proof of payment to the inspector electronically, mostly through whatsapp;
- The inspector sends the inspection report to the client also electronically;
- The client lodges all the documents to the Kentrade portal for all the concerned agents to see and clear i.e. KRA, DVS, ports authority;

- All those process are done electronically without physical contact of individuals;
- When all the conditions are met, the goods are cleared electronically by DVS officer and the client is able to print the DVS international veterinary health certificate;
- Once that is done the goods are ready for shipping.
- **The advantage of using Kentrade platform are many:**
- No physical movement of people saving on time, money and physical exhaustion of clearing agents;
- The turn around time is short, to the most a day instead of three to four days;

- The officer is able to clear the goods from wherever one is since one can do it from the phone;
- The client is able to deliver the goods on time without missing the ship;
- The platform is simple and easier to handle than the physical documents and one can print copies to keep physical records or retain electronic one;
- DVS leather advertises the conditions one requires to open a tannery in Kenya for everyone to see all over the world and also the application for premises form that one can download, fill and return to DVS

Challenges

- Lack of manpower in the DVS to oversee the stuffing of hides, skins, leather and leather products;
- Digitisation on stuffing of hides, skins, leather and leather products;
- Funding for the officers on mobility for the exercises of clearance, here an officer has to use one funds to move and buy data for clearance;

Thank you