

BFI EL SALVADOR

# CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION IN EL SALVADOR BFI IS READY

SIGAES • ADUANA 360 • CIITA • PAPERLESS CUSTOMS

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BFI EL SALVADOR • CUSTOMS INSIGHT

## El Salvador Customs Modernization: Is Your Supply Chain Ready?

Digital customs initiatives are creating a more connected, traceable and data-driven operating environment. For importers, exporters and international logistics partners, preparation now begins long before cargo arrives.

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Extended website article • Prepared for publication on [www.bfielsalvador.com](http://www.bfielsalvador.com)

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

# A New Customs Environment Is Taking Shape

El Salvador is moving toward a customs model that is more digital, integrated, secure and intelligence-led. The modernization framework presented by the Salvadoran Customs Authority is built around four major areas: technological modernization, infrastructure modernization, process modernization and regional logistics efficiency.

For the private sector, the opportunity is significant: faster validation, improved traceability, better coordination and greater predictability. The operational requirement is equally clear. Automated controls depend on accurate data. Product descriptions, tariff codes, commercial values, origin records, permits and supporting documents must be complete and consistent before a customs declaration is transmitted.

### 1. Technology

SIGAES, Aduana 360, CIIA, paperless processes and digital services.

### 2. Infrastructure

Airport, border and inspection capacity supported by modern control equipment.

### 3. Processes

Simplified procedures, faster response and greater predictability.

### 4. Regional Logistics

Border integration, advance control and improved transit coordination.

## Important context

The presentation describes a modernization roadmap and proposed capabilities. BFI communicates these initiatives as developments to monitor, while distinguishing them from services and procedures already published and available through the official Customs portal.

**PILLAR 1**

# Technological Modernization

The proposed Customs Management System (SIGAES) is positioned as a central platform for digital transformation. Its objective is to reduce dependence on physical documents, strengthen institutional integration and support faster processing across complex operations.

The presentation highlights anticipated capabilities including:

- Live coordination with institutions involved in foreign trade, including validation flows connected with MINEC.
- Electronic validation of certificates of origin and greater regional interoperability.
- High-volume processing for declarations containing more than 1,000 line items.
- Digital management of transfers, transits, rectifications, free-zone activity and DPA operations.
- Remote self-service through multiple devices and an increasingly paperless customs ecosystem.
- Specific support for e-commerce, occasional importers and courier activity.

## What this means for companies

Technology can accelerate a well-prepared operation, but it can also identify inconsistencies earlier. Companies should strengthen product master data, supplier instructions, document controls and internal responsibility for customs information. Data quality is no longer simply administrative; it is a core clearance requirement.

## Official digital access

The Salvadoran Customs Authority currently publishes online access to services including SIDUNEA World, the Integrated Customs Payment System (SIAP), Customs Status Verification (VEA), tariff consultations and electronic rectification procedures.

**VIEW OFFICIAL ONLINE CUSTOMS  
SERVICES**

**SMART CUSTOMS**

# Aduana 360 and Digital User Experience

The modernization presentation describes Aduana 360 as a proposed official mobile environment intended to bring together customs services that have historically been dispersed across different systems. The concept includes bilingual access, institutional support and an artificial-intelligence assistant trained on Salvadoran customs law and technical information.

Functions highlighted in the presentation include:

- Importer registration
- Air waybill traceability
- Electronic label management
- Travel and vehicle declarations
- Electronic anti-bribery form
- Electronic SAC services
- Customs status verification (VEA)

For logistics teams, mobile access and centralized status information could improve responsiveness. Nevertheless, companies should retain contingency procedures, controlled document repositories and clear escalation paths during technology transitions.

## Paperless does not mean control-free

A paperless environment increases the importance of reliable electronic records. Every digital field must be supported by commercial, technical and legal evidence. The best preparation is to review the shipment before departure and resolve classification, origin, valuation and permit questions before arrival.

**CUSTOMS INTELLIGENCE**

# CIIA: Technology for Inspection and Control

The Integrated Customs Intelligence Center (CIIA) is presented as a key component of the intelligence-led customs model. Its purpose is to strengthen real-time decisions, improve inspection capabilities and centralize risk analysis.

Technologies identified in the presentation include:

- High- and low-energy scanners
- Van backscatter and portable scanners
- Explosive and substance detectors
- Body cameras and specialized robotic support
- Videovigilance and drones
- GPS, RFID and QR traceability
- Centralized radiographic-image analysis assisted by artificial intelligence
- Technical support during physical inspections

## Operational implication

More advanced controls reward consistency. Invoice descriptions, packing details, quantities, weights, tariff codes and declared values should tell the same story. Any mismatch may generate questions, additional document requests or inspection activity.

At BFI El Salvador, our in-house customs team reviews available documentation in advance and coordinates the response when Customs requires technical information, valuation support, clarification or physical inspection.

**PILLAR 2**

# Infrastructure Modernization

Technology is only effective when it is supported by adequate operational infrastructure. The modernization strategy includes improvements at the airport, border crossings and inspection areas.

The presentation identifies developments related to:

- Modernized passenger-arrival and customs-control areas with continuous 24/7 operation
- Physical-review spaces, waiting areas, value-counting areas and customer-service facilities
- New infrastructure at La Hachadura to improve customs and migration control between El Salvador and Guatemala
- Modernization associated with El Poy and the Institute for Customs and Logistics Development
- Inspection equipment, surveillance and technical support for safer, more efficient controls

For importers and exporters, improved infrastructure may support greater capacity and more predictable movement. The commercial benefit still depends on correct planning: documentation, permits, handling requirements, transportation and delivery capacity must remain coordinated as one operation.

**PILLAR 3**

# Process Modernization and Faster Clearance

The third pillar focuses on simplification, reduced processing time and more efficient clearance. Faster customs procedures can lower cargo dwell time, improve inventory planning and reduce storage and operating costs.

Potential benefits include:

- Greater predictability for importers and exporters
- Reduced cargo dwell time
- Lower logistics and operating costs
- More efficient use of transportation and infrastructure
- Faster access to customs information
- Improved competitiveness and trade facilitation

## Speed requires readiness

A more efficient system does not eliminate documentary responsibility. It makes advance preparation more important. Missing permits, generic invoice descriptions, unsupported values or an incorrect tariff code may interrupt an otherwise fast process.

BFI supports clients by reviewing documents before cargo arrival, identifying principal customs requirements and coordinating the declaration, selectivity result, inspection, release, transportation and final delivery.

**PILLAR 4**

# Regional Logistics Efficiency

Regional integration is especially relevant for land cargo moving between El Salvador, Guatemala and other Central American markets. The presentation highlights binational coordination, anticipated control and customs presence closer to the cargo origin.

The modernization framework includes:

- Binational border coordination
- Electronic transit traceability
- Advance cargo information and risk control
- Greater coordination with regional ports
- Potential Salvadoran customs presence at Puerto Santo Tomás de Castilla and Puerto Barrios
- Faster DUCA processing and improved transit visibility

The presentation cites operational figures reported for the Anguiatú border initiative at the time of the event. Because those figures are event-specific and time-sensitive, BFI recommends presenting them in the downloadable presentation rather than as permanent website statistics.

For clients, the core message is durable: regional efficiency depends on early document transmission, consistent transit information and immediate coordination when cargo moves across jurisdictions.

## CUSTOMS ESSENTIAL

# Tariff Classification Before Shipping

Tariff classification is one of the most consequential customs decisions. It determines more than the duty rate. It may affect taxes, preferential treatment, permits, restrictions, origin rules, inspection requirements and the supporting documents required for clearance.

BFI reviews:

- Detailed product descriptions
- Materials and composition
- Technical specifications
- Commercial use and function
- Catalogs, photographs, drawings and data sheets
- Country of origin
- Suggested tariff code and supporting criteria
- Applicable tariff treatment
- Permits, restrictions and regulatory controls

The official Salvadoran Customs procedure for merchandise classification was authorized on January 19, 2026. It allows online or in-person filing and may require technical documentation or a physical sample. The published response time is 10 business days, with a possible extension for research or analysis.

**REVIEW THE OFFICIAL CLASSIFICATION  
PROCEDURE**

BFI can help organize the technical information required for a classification request or advance ruling. Final determinations remain within the authority of Salvadoran Customs.

**CLEARANCE CONTROL**

# Immediate Selectivity Monitoring

After a customs declaration is transmitted, the assigned selectivity result determines the next stage of the operation. Depending on the regime, merchandise and risk criteria, the process may require documentary validation, a physical inspection or clarification of declared information.

BFI provides:

- Immediate monitoring after declaration transmission
- Review of selectivity results
- Documentary follow-up and response to observations
- Coordination of physical inspections
- Presentation of technical support
- Clarification of tariff codes, quantities and values
- Coordination with Customs, terminals and carriers
- Payment, release and delivery follow-up
- Continuous status updates for clients and international agents

## Immediate verification at the consignee's premises

For applicable and authorized cases, Salvadoran Customs publishes a procedure that permits merchandise to move under customs control to the consignee's location for unloading and immediate verification. Eligibility and requirements must be evaluated for each operation.

**[VIEW THE OFFICIAL IMMEDIATE  
VERIFICATION PROCEDURE](#)**

**BFI EL SALVADOR**

# One Partner from Documentation to Delivery

BFI El Salvador combines in-house customs brokerage, operational infrastructure, technology and continuous regulatory monitoring. This integrated structure helps clients maintain control beyond the customs declaration.

Our customs and logistics support includes:

- Import and export customs clearance
- Advance document review
- Tariff classification analysis
- Customs valuation and origin support
- DUCA-D, DUCA-F and transit coordination
- Temporary imports and exports
- Free-zone and DPA operations
- Permit and supporting-document coordination
- Selectivity and inspection follow-up
- Cargo release and local transportation
- Secure warehousing, consolidation and distribution

## Nationwide operational presence

- Office in the cargo area of El Salvador International Airport
- Offices in San Salvador, Santa Ana and Acajutla
- Strategically located 1,100 m<sup>2</sup> warehouse
- Own transportation fleet
- Secure cargo handling and temporary storage
- BASC-certified security procedures

With more than 17 years of experience, BFI coordinates customs, transportation and warehousing through one local partner.

**PREPARATION CHECKLIST**

# What to Send Before Cargo Arrival

Early review creates time to identify classification questions, missing permits, inconsistencies or special handling requirements before they affect the clearance schedule.

- Commercial invoice
- Packing list
- Air waybill, bill of lading or land transport document
- Country of origin
- Detailed merchandise description
- Technical specifications and composition
- Product photographs, catalogs or safety data sheets
- Estimated arrival date
- Preferred customs regime
- Final delivery location

## Download the presentation

Add the customs-modernization presentation to the published article as a downloadable resource. Recommended button label:

**DOWNLOAD THE CUSTOMS  
MODERNIZATION PRESENTATION**

## Request a customs review

Send the available documents to Janeth Ortiz Bandy. Our team will identify the principal requirements and coordinate the next steps before cargo arrival.

**EMAIL JANETH ORTIZ BANDY**

## CONTACT

# Clear Your Cargo with Confidence

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## Official reference links

- [El Salvador Customs official portal](#)
- [Online customs services](#)
- [Merchandise tariff-classification procedure](#)
- [Immediate verification at consignee premises](#)

Editorial note: This article summarizes information contained in the BFI customs-modernization presentation and official procedures available as of August 2026. Modernization initiatives should be verified against the latest official publications before operational reliance.