

IMPORT AND EXPORT PERMITS: RELEVANCE, PROCEDURE, TIME AND COST

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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Definition, Background and Relevance

The IPD/EPD system and its history



Definition and Origin (1 / 2)

- ▶ **Import Permit Declarations (IPDs) and Export Permit Declarations (EPDs)** are administrative documents required to clear the import of restricted goods.
- ▶ In 1985 Liberia entered a crisis caused by the **inability of the country to service its debt**, and a **running budget deficit**.
- ▶ At that time, imports of any kind were appearing on the market, leaving the Government **incapable of regulating goods imported into the country**.



Definition and Origin (2 / 2)

- ▶ As a result of these challenges, three tools emerged:
 - 1. **Export Surrender Scheme**: Exporters were to surrender **25% of their export earnings** for the country to be able to service its debt and support imports.
 - 2. **Export Permits**: To ensure adequate monitoring of the scheme, exports permits were delivered to **track the amount of USD to be surrendered**.
 - 3. **Import Permits**: To ensure efficient use of this foreign exchange gained, **essential imports were prioritized through import permits**.



Relevance of IPDs/EPDs

- ▶ The IPD/EPD system is a regulatory tool for collection and allocation of scarce foreign exchange. **It is a monetary policy tool.**
- ▶ The **relevance of IPDs/EPDs** can only be questioned by answering the following two questions:
 - **Is there a lack of foreign exchange in the country?**
 - Yes: EPDs are necessary.
 - **Does scarce foreign exchange need to be carefully allocated to the essential needs of the economy?**
 - Yes: IPDs are necessary.



Process for IPD/EPD Approval (1 / 2)

1. Applicants present identification along with proforma invoice and a **blank IPD form is issued.**
2. **Importer returns with filled IPD form** and submits it to the Customer Service Center (CSC) for analysis and onward transmission for approvals.
3. **PSI approved IPD is returned to the CSC for dispatch** to the importer or representative (broker, staff, etc).
4. **Importer takes PSI approved IPD to BIVAC** for reference number for inspections overseas of destination inspection (DI).
5. Importer takes PSI approved IPD with Clean Report of Findings (CRF) or Destination Inspection (DI) authorization from BIVAC to MoCI for **final approval for Customs and Port clearances.**



Process for IPD/EPD Approval (2/2)

- ▶ Cost: Applications are free of charge.
- ▶ Time:
 - One year ago, IPDs could take **640 to 720 hours** to be processed.
 - Since then, the processing time has been **significantly reduced**. Now, IPDs are usually approved **24 hours at most** after application is submitted.



System Modernization

Recent innovations in the IPD/EPD procedure



Modernized IPD/EPD System

- ▶ Under the past administration, the IPD/EPD system faced a **transparency issue**, notably with brokers stalling clients by not picking up IPDs.
- ▶ To deal with these issues, the MoCI **modernized and streamlined the IPD/EPD process**.
- ▶ Now, brokers and applicants can **track their permit application status online** and brokers **receive a text message** the instant their IPD is approved for pick up.



MoCI IPD/EPD Data Entry

- MoCI staff enter IPD/EPD tracking data in real time:

IPD Number	EPD Number	Company Name	PSI Date received	PSI Time Received	BIVAC Number	Final Sign. Date Received	TIN	Broker Phone	Consignee Phone	Commodity	Containers	FOB	CIF
2609		Eid Brothers Inc.	6/18/2018	12:51	28280245	11/14/2018	500033000	0886512900	0886557555	Rim water	1*20	\$2,948.40	\$4,648.00
2227		Eid Brothers Inc.	6/18/2018	11:05			500033000	0886512900	0886557555	Rim water	2*20	\$4,832.90	\$8,207.00
2226		Eid Brothers Inc.	6/18/2018	11:16			500033000	0886512900	0886557555	Rim water	2*20	\$2,918.70	\$6,293.70
2610		Eid Brothers Inc.	6/18/2018	11:00			500033000	0886512900	0886557555	Rim water	1*20	\$28,200.00	\$30,000.00
100666		inberia m & t impex inc	6/18/2018	11:22			500043053	886579147	0770390955;	flavour	1*40	\$28,212.73	\$34,089.00
100667		inberia m & t impex inc	6/18/2018	11:26			500043053	886579147	0770390955;	Extra neutral alcohol	5*20	\$73,250.00	\$83,500.00
116428		Cesaf Liberia Ltd.	6/18/2018	11:32			500018018	0886532484	777944944	ceiling Fance	1*40	\$1,393.99	\$1,931.87
112554		Eid Supply Center	6/18/2018	11:39			500010793	0886515600	886129542	Fresh shell white	2*40	\$46,484.00	\$56,784.00
112554		T.Choithram & Sons (LIB) Inc.	6/18/2018	11:45	28165209			0886511711	886513764	Hustler energy	2*20	\$8,717.00	\$11,733.00
112917		Mano Manufacturing Company	6/18/2018	11:50	28150017		500135098	0886474999	888110012	HDPE BLow	2*20	\$51,800.00	\$56,350.00
2634		T.Choithram & Sons (LIB) Inc.	6/18/2018	11:55			500003186	0886511711	886513764	cooking salt	1*20	\$9,240.00	\$11,642.40
114341			6/18/2018	12:23	28167948		5001232169			battery	2*40	\$37,670.90	\$46,030.90
115898		Auto Spare Service Corporation	6/18/2018	12:36	28150619		500004675	0886510900	775903698	Axle Nut	1*20	\$24,560.15	\$27,165.15
2655		National Hardware Center	6/18/2018	12:42			500042697		770362780	ceramic wall tiles	3*20	\$8,957.24	\$13,607.24
115030		Jeety Trading Corporation	6/18/2018	12:46			500018152	0777226392	777660094	Kale Macunart	1*20	\$3,344.00	\$5,168.00
115031		Jeety Trading Corporation	6/18/2018	12:56			500018152	0777226392	777660094	Motor Oil	2*20	\$26,236.40	\$35,736.40
115618		Fouani Brothers Corporation	6/18/2018	13:02	28150142		500000143	0886610099	775155653	Double Star Baking powder	2*40	\$41,382.00	\$47,050.00
2654		National Hardware Center	6/18/2018	13:07			500042697	0886444777	770362780	Ceiling Tile	2*20	\$14,100.00	\$18,900.00
93378		A-Z Corporation	6/18/2018	13:14			500031921	886558695	0880754626	King Pop Corn	1*20	\$13,720.00	\$16,281.20
93377		A-Z Corporation	6/18/2018	13:18			500031921	886558695	0880754626	King Pop Corn	1*20	\$13,720.00	\$16,281.20
2624		youbioma printing press	6/18/2018	13:22			500013200			used mattress	1*40	\$9,263.00	\$12,961.00
87172		lamas farms inc	6/18/2018	13:36			500382463			Broiler Starter	1*20	\$6,000.00	\$7,650.00
113977		rajja international	6/18/2018	13:42	28175080		500031048			Caustioc Soda	2*20	\$27,000.00	\$29,700.00
113557		monoprix supermarket inc	6/18/2018	13:47	28179301		500018045	778441530	0886400003	Halal Frozen Chicken	1*40	\$9,450.00	\$13,650.00
114110		monoprix supermarket inc	6/18/2018	13:54	28177189		500018045	778441530	0886400003	Chickeb Wings	1*40	\$12,875.00	\$16,500.00
115943		Tiba Industrial Group	6/18/2018	13:57	28157705		500049226	0886400003	778441530	White Crystal Sugar	5*20	\$46,980.00	\$55,755.00
114110		monoprix supermarket inc	6/18/2018	14:15	28177189		500018045	778441530	0886400003	Chickeb Wings	1*40	\$12,875.00	\$16,500.00
113923		national frozen food company	6/18/2018	14:19	28175079		500631943			Port Tail Bones	1*40	\$14,851.00	\$19,040.00
114433		blissful travels & tours	6/18/2018	14:23	28166949		500539358			Clear Float Glass	3*20	\$15,052.65	\$18,413.70
2652		B - Kay Pharmacy Inc.	6/18/2018	14:27			500017322	0886512090		Tablets	2*20	\$99,917.00	\$102,575.00



Transparency of the IPD/EPD Process

- ▶ On MoCI website, the public can now track any IPD progress:

IPD and EPD TRACKING

Check the status of your Import Permit Declaration (IPD) and Export Permit Declaration (EPD) below.

Loading may need up to one minute. Please refresh the site if problems arise. For Notes/Explanations see below. 500 IPDs and EPDs are displayed at once.

For mobile click here. <https://awesome-table.com/LMoA5LnQ8WBDiC8S-uE/view>

TIN	IPD/EPD No.	⋮
PSI Submission	FS Submission	

501 - 1000 / 19502



TIN	IPD/EPD No.	PSI Submission ▾	PSI Processed	PSI Pick-Up	FS Submission
500882574	15637	2/13/2019 14:16		PSI Not Ready	
500181171	16795	2/13/2019 14:16	2/14/2019 11:40	PSI Ready for Pickup	
500010793	15234	2/13/2019 14:16	2/14/2019 11:46	PSI Ready for Pickup	
500671310	15233	2/13/2019 14:16	2/14/2019 11:45	PSI Ready for Pickup	
500149948	15245	2/13/2019 14:15		PSI Not Ready	
500018438	9496	2/13/2019 14:15	2/14/2019 11:49	PSI Ready for Pickup	
500018438	9493	2/13/2019 14:14	2/14/2019 11:51	PSI Ready for Pickup	
500018438	9494	2/13/2019 14:14	2/14/2019 11:50	PSI Ready for Pickup	

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

Exports

Imports

IPD/EPD TRACKING

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KEY DOCUMENTS

Keynote Address by Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh At The Opening Plenary Of The 2019 Warwick Africa Summit Caption: "WE FACE FORWARD – DAIMA MBELE"

Commerce Today Volume 4 Issue 02 Monthly Critical Commodities Bulletin, January 26, 2018 - February 26, 2019

Public Service Announcement: -Illicit Issuance of Import Permit Declaration (IPD)

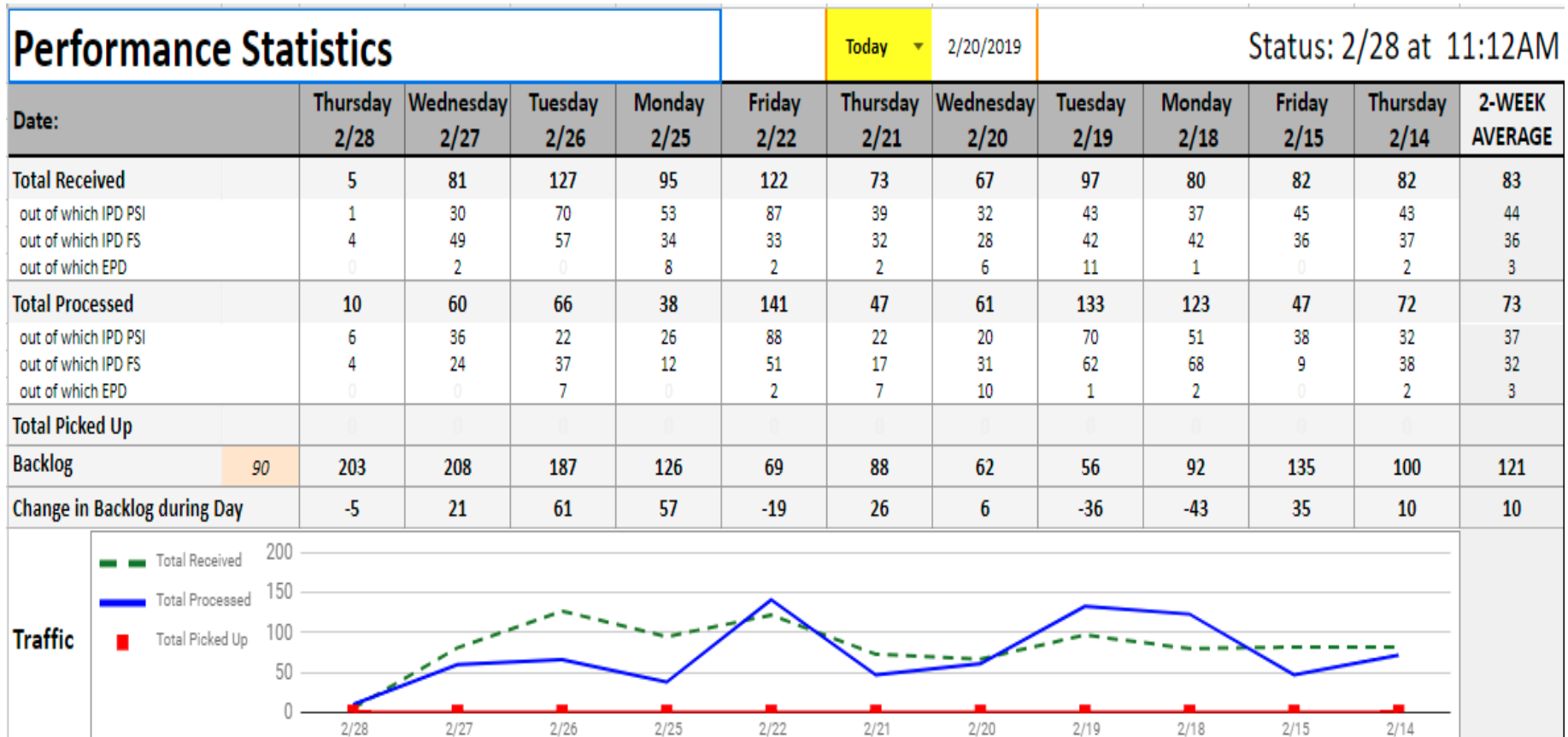
Joint Press Statement: The Ministry of Commerce & Industry And The Ministry of Health & Social Welfare

Small Business Pro-Poor Development Fund (SBPDF)



Performance Tracking at MoCI (1 / 2)

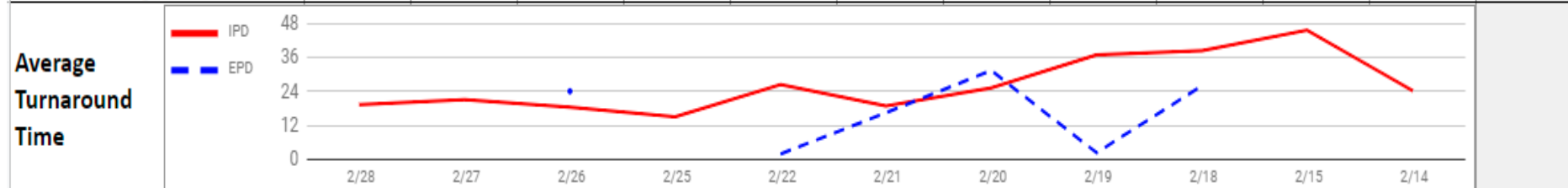
- Available only to Customer Service Center staff at MoCI, the back office of the IPD/EPD system allows to track performance:



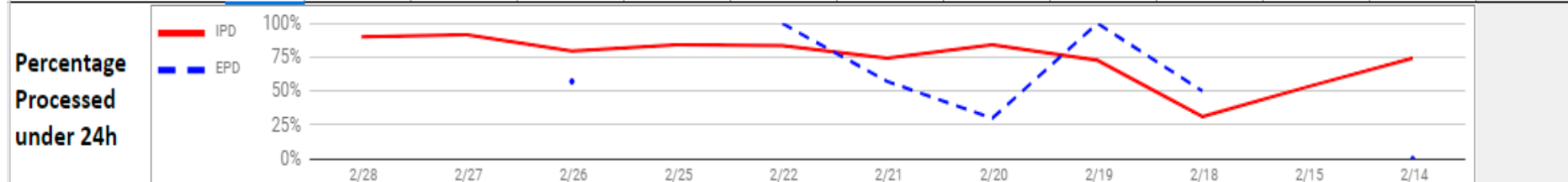
Performance Tracking at MoCI (2/2)

- ▶ Available only to Customer Service Center staff at MoCI, the back office of the IPD/EPD system allows to track performance:

Average Turnaround Time IPD	19	21	19	15	26	19	25	37	38	46	24	26
out of which PSI	26	19	20	20	31	20	40	50	47	55	29	32
out of which Final Signature	18	22	17	7	14	18	9	23	31	34	19	19
Average Turnaround Time EPD			24		2	17	31	2	26		50	22
out of which PSI						23	101		26		50	50
out of which Final Signature			24		2	14	24	2				13



Processed in under 24h * IPD	90%	92%	80%	84%	83%	74%	84%	73%	31%	53%	74%	74%
out of which PSI	83%	89%	82%	77%	85%	91%	65%	57%	45%	58%	81%	74%
out of which Final Signature	100%	96%	78%	100%	80%	53%	97%	90%	21%	33%	68%	74%
Processed in under 24h * EPD			57%		100%	57%	30%	100%	50%			56%
out of which PSI						100%	0%		50%		0%	38%
out of which Final Signature			57%		100%	40%	33%	100%				66%



Next Steps to Come

- ▶ The revamping of the IPD process is the **first step towards a fully integrated import and export administrative system, the Single Window.**
- ▶ Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the Single Window bidding have gone out and the process is **expected to be completed by next month.**
- ▶ This is a crucial measure in ensuring Liberia conforms to **WTO commitments**, but also increases the ease and transparency of doing business, thereby **attracting future investments** for crucial foreign exchange.



Thank You!

