

CONTACT US

For submission of Applications Forms:

Registration & Licensing Office (Preferred Trader Relations Management Key Contact Office)

Finance House, 2nd floor, Office no. 2045

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Office line: +266 5221 5143, +266 5221 5336, +266 5221 5621 and
Mobile: +266 6211 2349

Enquiries, Complaints and Appeals:

Physical Address: Ground Floor, Finance House Building, Government

Office Complex, Kingsway Road, Maseru

Tel. +266 22 313796; +266 52215111; Mobile. +266 52215000 or
+266 52215002, Fax: +266 22312091, Email: info@lra.org.ls

Website: www.lra.org.ls - **Contacts**

- FAQs -under Complaints and Enquiries
- Appeals and Complaints
- "Need help?" Online Chat

LRA Advice Centers: Maseru, Leribe and Mohale's Hoek Advice

LRA mobile offices: ThabaTseka, Mokhotlong, Qacha's nek

Border Posts:

Caledonspoort Border Post (Butha-Buthe): Tel: +266 22460621 or +266 22461790 (Opening Hours-06:00am - 22:00pm)

Maputsoe Bridge Border Post (Leribe): Tel: +266 22430257; Manager: +266 22431175 (Opening Hours-24 Hours)

Maseru Bridge Border Post (Maseru): Tel: +266 22312204 (Opening Hours-24 Hours)

Qacha's Nek Border Post (Qacha's Nek): Tel: +266 22950290 (Opening Hours-08:00 - 22:00)

Van Rooyen's Gate (Mafeteng): Tel: +266 22224700 (Opening Hours-08:00 - 22:00)



PREFERRED
TRADER
PROGRAMME

WHAT IS A PREFERRED TRADER?

It is an accreditation programme for compliant clients, often referred to as a “voluntary compliance management programme”. The programme is a recognition scheme that assesses client’s compliance, awards accreditation status, facilitates the client’s benefits and monitors compliance on a continuous basis for all operators/clients within the programmes. In itself the programme strengthens the relationship between Clients, LRA and the LRA Partner Agencies and Administrations thus removing client’s frustrations of time delays for cross border transactions and related costs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

1. Ensure efficiency of service to clients through more streamlined business processes for the compliant clients and reduce congestion at border control posts;
2. Reduce costs of trade by facilitation of cross-border flow of goods for compliant traders;
3. Reduce border management costs through reduced physical inspection and improved risk management;
4. Strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of management and allocation of scarce resources to focus on non-compliant trade;
5. Improve levels of compliance amongst traders on a voluntary basis and increased revenue collection;
6. Ensure smooth flow of goods at the borders for legitimate trade;
7. Improve competitiveness and profitability of Lesotho’s import and export trade through transparency and predictability of the clearance processes combined with expedited release and reduced controls; and
8. Reduce costs of intra-regional trade by facilitation of cross-border flow of goods for compliant traders and promoting harmonization and regional integration within SACU through a mutual recognition arrangement.

MAIN BENEFITS OF THE ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

- Front of the Line Privileges (priority treatment) for Clearance and Inspection

- Reduced level of verification at the border based on Risk Selectivity
- Choice of Place for physical verification of goods by Client, be it at the border, trader’s premises or other location of trader’s choice
- Automatic qualification for expedited refund systems for importers and exporters
- Contact person at each border post to facilitate PT transactions
- Mutual recognition of status in all SACU member states.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE STATUS

Any Importer and Exporter registered with the LRA is allowed to apply for the accreditation program and will be allowed to participate into the program upon fulfilment of certain requirements.

HOW DO YOU APPLY

The trader will have to submit the Preferred Trader Application Form-CE 185A, accompanied by a completed Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) and Self-Assessment Systems Questionnaire (SASQ).

ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- Must have a physical address in the country
- Must have a good financial standing/proven financial solvency
- Must maintain adequate books, records and control systems to support full compliance auditing by the LRA
- Must have had a good compliance record for previous three years at least, prior to application
- Must be bonded if a carrier and/or freight Forwarder and
- Must be duly licensed by the LRA to operate if a clearing agent

To ensure a successful application for the Preferred Trader status to the LRA, the importers and exporters should be compliant with the Customs and Excise Act 1982 and related Laws, VAT Act 2001, and Income Tax Act 1993.