

ENFORCING CONTRACTS

What are the details?

The indicators reported here for Swaziland are based on a set of specific procedural steps required to resolve a standardized commercial dispute through the courts (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover). These procedures, and the time and cost of completing them, are identified through study of the codes of civil procedure and other court regulations, as well as through questionnaires completed by local litigation lawyers (and, in a quarter of the economies covered by *Doing Business*, by judges as well).

COURT NAME

Claim value:	SZL 46,107
Court name:	High Court of Swaziland
City:	Mbabane

Table 10.2 Summary of time, cost and procedures for enforcing a contract in Swaziland

Indicator	Swaziland	Sub-Saharan Africa average
Time (days)	956	650
Filing and service	14	
Trial and judgment	912	
Enforcement of judgment	30	
Cost (% of claim)	56.1	45.1
Attorney cost (% of claim)	52.0	
Court cost (% of claim)	1.1	
Enforcement Cost (% of claim)	3.0	
Procedures (number)	40	39
Number of procedures (without bonus points)	40	
Total number of procedures (including bonus points)	40	

No.	Procedures
	Filing and service:
1	Plaintiff requests payment: Plaintiff or his lawyer asks Defendant orally or in writing to comply with the contract.
2	Plaintiff hires a lawyer: Plaintiff hires a lawyer.
*	Plaintiff files a summons and complaint: Plaintiff files a summons and complaint with the court (orally or in writing).
*	Plaintiff pays court fees: Plaintiff pays court fees (e.g. court duties, stamp duties, or any other type of court fees). Answer 'yes' even if Plaintiff recovers these costs.
3	Registration of court case: Registration of court case by the court administration (this can include assigning a reference number to the case).
*	Assignment of court case to a judge: Assignment of court case to a judge (through a random procedure, automated system, ruling of an administrative judge, court officer, etc).
4	Delivery of summons and complaint to person authorized to perform service of process on Defendant: The judge or a court officer delivers the summons to a summoning office, officer, or authorized person (including Plaintiff), for service of process on Defendant.
*	Arrangements for physical delivery of summons and complaint: Plaintiff takes the necessary steps to arrange for physical service of process on Defendant (e.g. instructing a court officer or a private bailiff).
5	Attempt at physical delivery: An attempt to physically deliver summons and complaint to Defendant is made.
*	Proof of service: Plaintiff submits proof of service to court, as required by law or standard practice.
*	Application for pre-judgment attachment: Plaintiff submits an application in writing for the attachment of Defendant's property prior to judgment.
*	Decision on pre-judgment attachment: Judge decides whether to grant Plaintiff's request for pre-judgment attachment of Defendant's property and notifies Plaintiff and Defendant of the decision.
6	Pre-judgment attachment order: Defendant's property is attached prior to judgment. Attachment order either involves physical attachment, or is achieved by freezing, registering, marking, or otherwise separating and restricting Defendant's movement of specific moveable assets.
7	Custody of assets attached prior to judgment: If physical attachment is ordered, Defendant's attached assets are placed in the custody or control of an enforcement officer or private bailiff.
8	Report on pre-judgment attachment: Court enforcement officer or private bailiff issues and delivers a report on the attachment of Defendant's property to the judge.
9	Hearing on pre-judgment attachment: A hearing takes place as a matter of law or standard practice to resolve the question of whether Defendant's assets can be attached prior to judgment. This process may include the submission of separate summons and petitions.
	Trial and judgment: