

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Government Issue Paper: North America Single Window

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U.S. Customs and
Border Protection



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NORTH AMERICAN SINGLE WINDOW VISION APPROACH

OVERVIEW:

- CBP continues to work closely with the Canada Border Services Agency and Mexico's Tax Administration Service (Servicio de Administración Tributaria, or SAT) counterparts to explore opportunities for streamlining the regional flow of trade, and implement mutually-agreed upon solutions.
- Longer term plans will need to include additional trilateral stakeholders from the trade community and government agencies to achieve a true North American Single Window. It will therefore be imperative for CBSA and SAT to determine which agencies in their respective governments regulate the various aspects of imports and exports, and include them in this initiative going forward.

BACKGROUND:

- The North American Single Window Approach is a strategic initiative that focuses on creating a shared single window vision among Canada, Mexico and the United States and an implementation roadmap with program and stakeholder engagement deliverables that provide forward movement towards that vision.
- CBP, along with its Canadian and Mexican counterparts, have created a shared vision to include the scope and definition of a North American Single window
- CBP has established a Commercial Operations and Advisory Committee (COAC) One U.S. Government working group for trade community input into this effort.
- CBP recently held a two-day session with COAC members, CBSA, and members of the Canadian trade community to discuss the initiative. The discussions involved included following topics, among others:
 - Import and export manifest data elements;
 - Synchronization of manifest filing times;
 - Common data elements that are unique to each country;
 - Advance security and admissibility data;
 - Unique identifiers;
 - Data harmonizational multi modal concepts including simple bills, master bills, and house bills of lading
- Canada has launched its single window and has incorporated seven of its nine government agencies with trade regulations, and has included a major customs broker in its effort. Canada went live with a soft launch of single window on March 29, 2016 and full implementation is expected by end of 2016.
- Mexico's single window system been operational since 2012, which is mandatory and the only way to process imports and exports into and out of the country.

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