

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Trade Modernization Subcommittee – Executive Summary

November 17, 2016

The logo for the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC). It features the letters 'COAC' in a bold, serif font. The 'C' and 'A' are blue, while the 'O' and the second 'C' are red. Below the letters are two horizontal lines, the top one red and the bottom one blue.

**COMMERCIAL CUSTOMS OPERATIONS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

CUSTOMS COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Trade Modernization Subcommittee Executive Summary – Trade Progress Report November 2016

Background

The Trade Modernization Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the COAC now has completed the work of two (2) working groups (WGs), relaunched one (1), and actively launched two (2) WGs to forge a public/private partnership that will develop a strategic vision to enhance predictability, transparency and efficiency that is relevant in today's progressive trade environment.

Chair people

Jeffery Nii	Acting Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of Trade, CBP
David Dolan	Director, International Organizations and Agreements Division, Office of International Affairs,
Sherri Jordan	Jordan, Director, Financial Systems Division , Office of Finance, Financial Operations Directorate, CBP
Myles Harmon	Director, Financial Systems Division , Office of Finance, Financial Operations Directorate, CBP
Cindy Allen	VP Regulatory Affairs and Compliance, FedEx Trade Networks
Lenny Feldman	Senior Member, Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

Working Group Updates

1. Centers of Excellence & Expertise Uniformity and 2016 Broker Regulations

These working groups arrived at over sixty (60) that were submitted previously in the April COAC Public Meeting. We look forward to an update on these recommendations from CBP.

2. International Engagement & Trade Facilitation

After a brief hiatus, this WG is relaunching to develop a strategy to identify top trade barriers to effective and efficient trade with our most prominent trade partners (e.g., BRIC countries and FTA partners). The Working Group will offer practical strategic approaches and solutions/suggestions to encourage the adoption of best practices through engagement with the WCO and for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

3. Revenue Modernization

This new working group, Revenue Modernization (Rev Mod), initiative will consolidate, automate, and streamline fragmented and manual revenue collections processes, allowing CBP Officers to spend less time collecting payments and more time on mission operations, to include customer facing and enforcement duties. The Rev Mod initiative was created to:

- 1) Apply modern technologies to decrease time and paperwork collecting revenue and issuing receipts in the field
- 2) Improve documentation, training, and procedures such that customers' experience is consistent across CBP
- 3) Expand payment options to provide customers with more electronic and advanced payment options
- 4) Improve CBP systems integration, which will provide better reporting capabilities and data transparency to customers
- 5) Streamline processes and improve port infrastructure to support the emerging revenue program requirements and technologies

4. Rulings and Decisions Improvement

The current system of CBP rulings and decisions, *e.g.*, binding rulings, internal advice and protest review decisions, affords an indispensable degree of transparency and informed compliance for the international trade community. Regulations & Rulings (R&R), CBP Headquarters provides these tools that are vital for both proper business planning and for affording traders due process. This process includes the review and reconsideration of binding CBP rulings and decisions to promote uniform guidance. However, in a number of instances, the prolonged time taken for consideration and issuance of these decisions may diminish their value to the trader.

The working group will identify areas for process improvement in the receipt and issuance of CBP HQ rulings and decisions focusing on tariff classification, valuation, origin, preference programs, drawback and other aspects of the entry and duty refund process. The goal is to retain the high quality of existing rulings while improving substantially the delivery time for receipt of the rulings.

Conclusion

We thank the numerous officials from CBP Headquarters and the field as well as members from the trade community representing the importing and brokerage industry and its service providers (sureties, couriers, etc.) operating throughout the U.S. for the continued support in our one WG relaunch and two launches. We are excited to be engaged in substantial work in these three core WG areas, and anticipate future recommendations from each.