

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Government Issue Paper:

Border Interagency Executive Council and One U.S. Government at the Border

(July 2017)



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

OFFICE OF TRADE/TRADE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

BORDER INTERAGENCY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & ONE U.S. GOVERNMENT AT THE BORDER

July 25, 2017

Action Required: Informational

Background:

- An expanded Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC) was formally established by Executive Order 13659 (February 19, 2014), “*Streamlining the Export/Import Process for America’s Businesses*,” and charged with improving coordination among the 47 agencies with import and export requirements.
- The BIEC includes executives from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Health and Human Services, Interior, Justice, State, Transportation, and Treasury. National Security Council (NSC) Staff, National Economic Council (NEC) Staff, and representatives from the Office of Management and Budget and the United States Trade Representative also attend.
- The BIEC is comprised of senior officials that oversee the following agency level working committees: Risk Management Committee (chaired by Food and Drug Administration), Process Coordination Committee (chaired by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)), and External Engagement Committee (chaired by Department of Commerce). The External Engagement Committee regularly collaborates with the trade community to enhance pilot participation and address any concerns on the part of the private sector.

Issue: The BIEC is working on several major projects, along with developing a process to prioritize enhancements to Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) that are considered “post-core.”

Current Status:

- There are currently two main BIEC working groups, one working on the Foreign Entity Identifier (FEID), and the other on partner government agency (PGA) targeting and manifest access capabilities.
- The FEID working group has analyzed alternative methods to identify and track foreign entities, considering the challenges and shortcomings of both structure and function. The working group has compiled and evaluated all inputs, feedback, and requirements from its stakeholder engagement activities and alternatives analysis. The findings informed and shaped the general FEID Principles, outlining a proposed approach to addressing the FEID issue.
- The targeting and manifest access working group is working through high-level requirements and recommendations to guide next steps. This working group will compile initial PGA requirements in a comprehensive report and present findings at the August 28, 2017, BIEC Principals meeting.
- ACE has moved into the operations and maintenance phase of its life cycle. CBP is prioritizing “post-core” development initiatives while completing final deployment of core trade processing capabilities in ACE. Resources for future work are constrained, so additional funding will be a key factor in assessing future work.

Next Steps:

- The BIEC working groups are preparing for the upcoming BIEC Principals meeting on August 28, 2017.
- The BIEC will be focusing on continued ACE enhancements and simplifying CBP processes, in line with CBP’s trade priorities and funding availability.

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