

# Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Emerging Technologies

September 2018



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection



Directorate/Office  
Emerging Technologies Working Group  
September 2018

**Action Required:**

Information only, no action requested.

**Background:**

The COAC Emerging Technologies Working Group has been exploring functional viability of using blockchain technology to improve and streamline manual processes for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. CBP has designed a proof of concept for using a decentralized ledger or “blockchain”, specifically to track Entry Summary data and supporting documents in a digital, tamperproof, and auditable manner.

The proof of concept is intended to enable the Trade Community to store Entry Summary data and supporting documentation on their own systems while providing an auditable proof of existence with limited access to CBP. Success of this concept will 1) increase transparency of NAFTA/CAFTA eligibility results and supporting documentation between all relevant USG agencies, individual importers and their respective supply chains 2) reduce overall operational costs (increase rate of processing, reduce shipping preparation and printing costs, enable further automation).

**Issues/Next Steps:**

CBP is currently testing the proof of concept that will evaluate whether employing Blockchain technology will provide compelling operational benefits and cost savings to both the U.S. CBP and the Trade Community. Portions of the NAFTA / CAFTA import process, specifically verification of intellectual property and relationships between licensees and licensors, have been identified as good candidates for improvement if a transition to a more digitized, decentralized system is undertaken.

**Upcoming milestones** – CBP is conducting integration testing to prove compatibility of a blockchain platform with multiple partner systems.

Submitted by: Thomas Mills, ES/OIT, [thomas.j.mills@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:thomas.j.mills@cbp.dhs.gov), 202-528-9386

Date: September 18, 2018