

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Government Issue Paper: 21st Century Customs Framework

August 2019



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

21st Century Customs Framework

Action Required: Informational

Background:

- The U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Trade (OT) is developing the 21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF).
- Commissioner McAleenan formally announced the 21CCF initiative at the August 2018 Trade Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia.
- The 21CCF team completed over 50 informational interviews with trade experts both inside and outside of CBP. Based on these interviews, CBP determined that there is a substantive set of issues that can use improvement either through policy, regulatory, or statutory action.
- This Framework is a comprehensive modernization effort comprising policy, regulatory, and statutory changes that will position CBP for the future of trade.
- It is a landmark effort, intended to update antiquated laws, akin to the Customs Modernization Act 1993, a part of NAFTA.
- 21CCF is a transparent initiative and we are seeking active participation and feedback from the trade community.
- To solicit public input on potential areas of modernization, CBP opened two 21CCF public comment periods via Federal Register Notice, which resulted in 49 comments from members of the trade community.
- We also hosted a full-day public meeting on March 1, 2019, with 23 members of the trade community providing substantive remarks on trade modernization, and nearly 1,000 registered attendees.
- Based on the input provided by the trade during this public comment opportunities, CBP has identified five pillars around which it is organizing the 21CCF initiative:
 - (i) Enhance Facilitation and Security through 21st Century Processes;
 - (ii) Define Customs and Trade Responsibilities for Emerging and Traditional Actors;
 - (iii) Ensure Seamless Data Sharing and Access;
 - (iv) Employ Intelligent Enforcement; and
 - (v) Protect and Enhance Customs Infrastructure through Secure Funding.

Issues and Next Steps:

- We are now in the process of developing a more detailed framework around these five pillars, including identifying modernization objectives and projects that align with and support the pillars. These projects will involve statutory, regulatory, and policy updates, each with their own execution plans and timelines.
- CBP is engaging the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) to get their feedback on concepts such as modernizing the entry process and reducing administrative burdens in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enforcement.
- CBP is also working with the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC) to harmonize entry processes across the U.S. Government (USG).