

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee: Trusted Trader Working Group

August, 2019



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Action Required:

- The 15th Term of the COAC instituted a restructuring of the previous subcommittees to align more with CBP's vision and priorities. Under the newly formed Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee a Trusted Trader Working Group was formulated. It is envisioned that this working group will continue the great work that was being completed under the auspices of the former Trusted Trader Subcommittee.
- The former COAC subcommittee was asked to provide CBP with recommendations and advice on a Trusted Trader Program. Trusted Trader is an integration of the CTPAT and ISA programs into a consolidated program that includes supply chain security and trade compliance. The program is being implemented via the Trusted Trader Pilot Program, announced in the Federal Register (79 FRN 13992) on June 16, 2014.
- CBP, the Trusted Trader Subcommittee members and the Trusted Trader Pilot participants met in Long Beach January 17-18, 2018. Key outcomes of the meetings were prioritization of program benefits and a discussion on COAC recommendations as they pertained to CTPAT, and ISA process re-engineering. Eight program benefits were prioritized based on their feasibility of implementation and impact to industry:
 - 1) CTPAT portal development for Trade Compliance;
 - 2) Reconciliation;
 - 3) Penalty Mitigation/Offset;
 - 4) Expedited Rulings;
 - 5) Release of Goods/Post Release Exams;
 - 6) CTPAT Defender (Identity Theft Program
 - 7) Exemption from random NIIs;
 - 8) Automation of Confidential Manifest requests.
- On November 2, 2018 CBP held a kick-off meeting with the newly established Trusted Trader Working Group. Subsequent meetings were held November 6 and 14, 2018.
- The Trusted Trader Working Group had a call on February 7 and 14, 2019. The group worked on plans to include modifying recommendations to mention corporate social responsibility programs; include a PGA engagement strategy; and include a strategy to promote program benefits and the new Trade Compliance portal.
- CBP, the COAC Trusted Trader Working Group members and the Trusted Trader Pilot participants met in Miami from May 8-9, 2019. Key outcomes of the meeting were refinement of the Trusted Trader forced labor strategy, creating an action plan for Partner Government Agency (PGA) engagement, and the prioritization of five new Program benefits based on their feasibility of implementation and impact to industry:
 - Levels of Service;
 - Quantifying Member Benefits with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs);
 - CTPAT Branding;

- Alternative Validations;

BACKGROUND

- During the period April 2016 to July 2016, the Trusted Trade Subcommittee held two meetings as a full committee. At the meetings, the work of the Subcommittee focused on finalizing the Trusted Trader Strategy document that outlines the future vision of an enhanced Trusted Trader Program. The Trusted Trader Framework Strategy was released at the July 2016 COAC meeting.
- COAC's Trusted Trader Subcommittee recommended CBP focus Trusted Trader strategic and tactical objectives on developing compelling benefits for voluntary participation in Trusted Trader Programs, and these benefits should outweigh the cost of participation. These benefits are essential for the advancement of Trusted Trader Programs and must be articulated in specific facilitation metrics. Benefits must be aligned with Section 101 of HR 644 on Improving Partnership Programs.
- CBP established the pilot with a phased approach. Phase I (June 2014 - June 2016) entailed the development of internal guidance, vetting and validation of the nine pilot participants; and concluded with the issuance of the Trusted Trader Validation Report and formal acceptance of seven pilot participants as Trusted Traders.
- CBP has been closely engaged with the pilot participants through bi-weekly conference calls and has been working to evaluate the impact of the program incentives via operational metrics developed in coordination with pilot participants.
- CBP has developed a catalogue of proposed benefits to help improve and standardize incentive delivery as the pilot transitions to an operational program.
- Phase II of the pilot launched in June 2016. The focuses of this phase were to evaluate the current incentives with pilot partners to complete the development of the CTPAT Portal to accommodate Trade Compliance in addition to supply chain security
- In Phase III, CBP operationalized Trade Compliance and began the transition of the seven Trusted Trader Pilot members in October, 2018.
- CBP has completed the Trade Compliance portal and is in the final stages of preparing to launch the integration of ISA members, on a phased basis, into Trade Compliance.

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