

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee Unified Entry Process Work Group

December 2019



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection



Office of Trade
21st Century Customs Framework (21CC)
November 15, 2019

Action Required: Informational

Background:

- The 21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF) is an aspirational and comprehensive modernization effort that will position Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for the future of trade by modernizing antiquated laws, policies, and processes.
 - This landmark effort shall update antiquated laws, policies, and processes, akin to the Customs Modernization Act passed in 1993 as part of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). To provide perspective, the last comprehensive modernization effort occurred two years before Amazon sold its first book.
- To solicit public input on potential areas of modernization, CBP opened two public comment periods via Federal Register Notice, which resulted in 49 comments from members of the trade community. CBP 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.
- Through this engagement with the trade community, government subject matter experts, and other internal and external stakeholders, CBP has organized this initiative around five key pillars:
 1. Enhance Facilitation and Security through 21st Century Processes.
 2. Define Customs and Trade Responsibilities for Emerging and Traditional Actors.
 3. Ensure Seamless Data Sharing and Access.
 4. Employ Intelligent Enforcement.
 5. Protect and Enhance Customs Infrastructure through Secure Funding.
- Each pillar of the 21CCF framework identifies initiatives and actions that involve statutory, regulatory, and policy updates, each with their own execution plans and timelines, that will enable the successful execution of the 21CCF strategic goals.

Issue:

- While developing the 21CCF framework, CBP received substantial feedback regarding the need to rethink the entry process. Established for a different era of commerce, the entry process has become increasingly complex in an effort to keep pace with the growing challenges presented in international trade.
- The trade community seeks a modern process that embraces emerging technology and harmonization across the government for streamlined cargo processing.

Current Status:

- As a direct outcome of this feedback, a core focus of the 21CCF Framework is the Unified Entry Process (UEP).
- UEP will enhance facilitation and security by ensuring collection of the best and most reliable data, enabling risk management and cargo release decisions further in advance of cargo arrival, harmonizing procedures to enhance predictability and reduce friction for Trade and government stakeholders, and leveraging automation to scale critical operations.

- With this process, the USG can move towards an automated, account-based, data centric infrastructure where importation, targeting, and analytics processes can keep pace with trade volumes and industry demands.
- The COAC UEP Working Group is providing valuable, forward-leaning insights on how a new entry process can operate while also considering the need to enter goods in a safe, secure manner.

Next Steps:

- The Working Group will deliver recommendations that include short, mid and long-term actions to address the objectives noted herein to the COAC Next Generation & Facilitation Subcommittee and to the full COAC membership for consideration. The COAC will present the recommendations to CBP during the COAC quarterly public meeting(s).
- For more information about 21 CCF, please visit our webpage on CBP.gov:
<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/21CCF>

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