

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)

Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee: Remote and Autonomous Cargo Processing Working Group Government Issue Paper

April 2020



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Office of Field Operations, Cargo and Conveyance Security
Remote and Autonomous Cargo Processing Working Group
April 2020

Action Required:

- Informational Only

Background:

- The COAC Remote and Autonomous Cargo Processing Working Group (RACPWG) was established on October 2, 2019.
- The RACPWG was established with the following goals :
- Establish a clear vision of autonomous conveyance in each environment and speculate how customs operations should be built to afford efficiencies both to traders and to the U.S. government by addressing the following:
 - Define key categories of autonomous technologies for each environment
 - Identify which phases of the entry and conveyance process are most/least adaptable to automation
 - Define which Trade and CBP processes need to adapt in order to facilitate implementation of autonomous conveyance technologies
 - Provide a set of recommendations to CBP regarding the costs, benefits, and risks associated with implementation of autonomous technologies as it pertains to entry and conveyance processes

Issue:

- The trade is looking to explore how advanced technology can be utilized within cargo processing applications.
- Remote processing applications have been researched by CBP and conceptually included in port of the future designs.
- The working group was established to identify ways to assist CBP in identifying and assessing existing and future technology to facilitative cargo clearance.

Next Steps:

- The working group ultimately decided that the original goals were too broad in scope, and that a single mode of transportation should be focused on for review and assessment.
- The RACPWG has reviewed ongoing efforts with Kansas City Southern and CBP at the Laredo Port of Entry.
- The working group has identified numerous benefits resulting from this ongoing cooperation and intends to recommend expansion of these efforts at additional rail crossings.

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