

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Government Issue Paper: 21st Century Customs Framework - Unified Entry Process

April 2020



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection



Office of Trade
21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF)
March 30, 2020

Action Required: Informational

Background:

- The 21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF) is an aspirational and comprehensive modernization effort that will position U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for the future of trade by modernizing antiquated laws, policies, and processes.
- Through 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 potential statutory, regulatory, and policy updates, each with their own execution plans and timelines, that will enable the successful execution of the 21CCF strategic goals.
- The Unified Entry Process (UEP) is a major component of the first 21CCF pillar: Enhance Facilitation and Security through 21st Century Processes.
- The Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) UEP working group was formed to provide an avenue for the Trade, through deliberation and discussion, to offer CBP recommendations related to Unified Entry.
- More specifically, this group seeks to recommend a future business process framework for Unified Entry and propose potential mechanisms for moving data collections further in advance of cargo arrival.

Issue:

- Unified Entry represents a reimagining of the current entry process that seeks to expedite release decisions, improve data collection, align authorities across agencies, streamline business processes, and otherwise keep pace with the many new opportunities presented by the modern trade environment.
- The Unified Entry Process also seeks to embrace emerging technology and increase harmonization amongst government agency processes, procedures, and data requirements.

Current Status:

- Key actions completed to date by the COAC Unified Entry Process working group include:
 - Developed a comprehensive set of pain points with the current entry process.
 - Identified opportunities to improve entry data collection through a major data exercise.
 - Brainstormed multiple concepts to modernize entry.

Next Steps:

- In early April, the working group is scheduled to hold an all-day working session to further define recommended business process improvements for incorporation into the Unified Entry Process.

- Following the April working session, the COAC Unified Entry Process working group will compile its findings and formalize a set of Unified Entry Process recommendations.
- In the Q3 Public Meeting, slated for July, the Working Group plans to present its recommendations to include short, mid and long-term actions intended to address the objectives noted herein to the COAC Next Generation & Facilitation Subcommittee and to the full COAC membership for consideration.

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Date: March 31, 2020