

Virtual Trade Week: Forced Labor Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Where can I find resources and information on 21CCF?

For more information about 21CCF, please visit the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Trade's website: <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/21CCF> or email us at 21CCF@cbp.dhs.gov.

Q. What technologies are you considering to help make the 21CCF vision a reality?

CBP is considering a range of technology options to advance the 21CCF vision and support our dual mission of facilitation and enforcement. These technologies include, but are not limited to; distributed ledger technology, verifiable credentials, artificial intelligence, and non-intrusive inspection (NII) technology. We are coordinating with stakeholder groups, including the Trade community, to help inform future technology priorities.

Q. Does CBP plan to update current terminology and concepts to align with 21CCF?

Trade has changed drastically since 1993, when the last comprehensive legislative changes were passed via the Customs Modernization Act. As part of 21CCF, CBP does intend to update certain standards and concepts, such as the Importer of Record concept, to align with modern trade realities and to provide the flexibility to adjust to future changes.

Q. What role will brokers play in 21CCF's future vision?

Brokers have played a critical role in the United States' ability to successfully conduct trade and will continue to do so under 21CCF. As the ultimate trusted partners to both the U.S. Government and to private companies, brokers provide essential benefits to U.S. commerce. By removing unnecessary red tape from the entry process, brokers will be able to transition away from so much manual data entry and remain in demand for the specialized knowledge they bring to supply chains.

Q. What does CBP plan to do with ACE as it pertains to 21CCF?

The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) will continue to play a central role in trade functions as we modernize our customs framework. Enhancements and upgrades to ACE will be necessary to deliver on the 21CCF vision and to improve the user experience for the Trade community. Accordingly, CBP has no intention to abandon ACE, the Automated Broker Interface (ABI), or any other major capital investments that are currently in place.

Q. What new types of data does CBP seek to collect as part of a reimagined entry process?

In the current entry environment, limited visibility into aspects of the supply chain raises safety and security challenges, caps how quickly goods can enter the United States, and increases costs for both the Trade and CBP. With 21CCF, CBP is aiming to collect the right data, from the right parties, at the right time to develop a clear and timely picture of where a good originated, how it was made, and its chain of custody prior to arrival at the U.S. border. By achieving this, CBP can make data-driven, risk-based entry decisions earlier in the entry process, creating a seamless flow of information and goods into the country and mitigating risks to any one party by diversifying reasonable care standards.

Q. How will CBP collect additional data from foreign parties?

By identifying the right parties, CBP can assess the most effective means by which to collect information. In some instances that will necessitate close collaboration with foreign parties, including governments. For example, CBP is already working with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Singapore Customs to develop an interoperable single window. This type of data sharing creates an international trade environment where both security and facilitation are improved – a win-win for industry and governments alike.

Q. 21CCF seems like a substantial change. How will CBP manage this change for both the government and the Trade community?

The 21CCF vision for the future is a direct result of CBP's close partnership with the Trade community, Congress, and our Partner Government Agencies (PGAs). It is this same partnership that will drive our transition as we make this vision a reality. CBP will continue to actively communicate and collaborate via the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC), the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC), and other avenues to achieve a future-state that takes the needs of all stakeholders into account and enables our shared success.