

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee
Government Issue Paper
Cross-Border Recognition
Working Group**

December 2022



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

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Action Required: Informational

Background: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)'s goal is to establish a holistic approach to strengthen the security of the supply chain and an approach that better reflects CBP's overall mission. To that end, issues related to cybersecurity, the protection of the supply chain from agricultural contaminants, the prevention of money laundering, terrorism financing, and the proper use/management of security technology, such as intrusion alarms and security camera systems, have been incorporated into the program's new criteria. Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) will continue to engage its members and the trade community at large to educate and socialize the updated/strengthened security requirements. Unified Cargo Processing (UCP) is also an important goal of CBP, which is utilized to help facilitate the flow of trusted CTPAT partner's cargo across the U.S./Mexico border. To that end, it is imperative that Customs continue to work with our partners to continue this process and possibly add new locations.

Issue: Continues to collaborate with Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Mexico representatives to strengthen their program requirements and align the programs as well as continuing the use of UCP and explore opportunities for growth.

Current Status: AEO Mexico representatives are internally discussing/updating the proposed strengthened program requirements. A timeline has been provided to CBP outlining next steps. As for UCP, our Mexican colleagues are working to continue moving forward with this great partnership.

Next Steps: AEO Mexico representatives will provide a copy of the finalized program updates for concurrence to CBP, tentatively November 2022. Once the teams agree, the proposed changes will be submitted for final approval by AEO Mexico upper leadership and published by the end of December 2022.

For UCP, our Mexican colleagues will continue to review the current status and potential new locations for UCP.

Submitted by: Cristobal Hernandez
Date: November 14, 2022