

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory  
Committee  
Rapid Response Subcommittee**

September 2023

**COAC**

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COMMERCIAL CUSTOMS OPERATIONS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)**  
**September 2023**

**Report of the Work of the COAC**  
**Subcommittee on Rapid Response**

**Co-Chairs**

Brian Barber - Willson International, Inc.

Julie Pojar - Kohler Co.

**Rapid Response Subcommittee Members**

Angela Cook, David Corn, John Drake, Jose D. Gonzalez, Tom Gould, Kerry Novak, Stephen Simmons, Jodi Swentik, John Van Wallaghen, Erika Vidal-Faulkenberry, Brian White, and Kathy Wilkins.

**Background**

The following working groups make up the Rapid Response Subcommittee:

- 1) Broker Modernization Working Group, co-chaired by Brian Barber and John Van Wallaghen
- 2) U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Working Group, co-chaired by Kerry Novak and Kathy Wilkins

All subcommittee objectives and scope are consistent with the official charter of COAC.

**Summary of Work**

The Rapid Response Subcommittee has the responsibility of aligning Working Groups with CBP's Trade Strategy 2020. This strategy focuses on three areas aimed at modernizing import/export processes, improving trade intelligence, and maximizing efficiencies.

The Rapid Response Subcommittee met twice since the June 2023 public meeting. This past quarter, the Rapid Response Subcommittee received updates from the CBP co-chairs regarding the progress and next steps for the Broker Modernization Working Group and the U.S. – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA) Working Group.

**Broker Modernization Working Group:**

Under the 16<sup>th</sup> term, the COAC has consolidated the Customs Broker Exam Modernization and Broker Continuing Education Working Groups with the previously active Title 19 part 111 Rewrite Working Group and formed the Broker Modernization Working Group (BMWG).

This group met three times this quarter. The BMWG continued discussing certain aspects of the final rule relating to the Modernization of the Customs Brokers Regulations and offered input to CBP. The Continuing Education rule for Licensed Customs Brokers has officially been published allowing the team to discuss thoughts specific to implementation. Additionally, the

group focused significant attention on discussing results from the April customs broker examination and preparation for the upcoming October customs broker exam.

**U.S. – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA) Working Group:**

The USMCA Working Group continued the in-depth review of Chapter 7, the Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation provisions of the US - Mexico - Canada Agreement (USMCA). The US-Mexico CEO Dialogue team remained engaged with members representing both Mexico and Canada, and the working group discussions on each Article contained within. The working group will have one recommendation for the September 20, 2023, Public Meeting. The working group will also continue to refine their findings and provide focused feedback and a final report of the key areas of impact to industry.

**Conclusion**

The Rapid Response Subcommittee will continue to work closely with CBP on all issues related to Customs Brokers and USMCA as appropriate.