

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee
Government Issue Paper
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee
Trade Partnership and Engagement Working Group**

March 2024



**U.S. Customs and
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Office of Field Operations, Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT)
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee
Trade Partnership and Engagement Working Group
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Action Required: Informational

Background:

The 16th Term of the Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) was a continuation of the Trusted Trader Working Group, and the working group changed its name to Trade Partnership and Engagement (TPE). The previous COAC subcommittee provided CBP with recommendations for the transition from Importer Self-Assessment to CTPAT Trade Compliance. All former ISA participants are enrolled in CTPAT Trade Compliance, and the program opened for new applications on August 1, 2022.

Current Status:

The latest Statement of Work (SOW) for the Trade Partnership and Engagement Working Group pivots the focus to the CTPAT Security program while continuing efforts to enhance the Trade Compliance program. Shifting the focus from Trade Compliance importers to all Security entities will allow an expanded pool of trade stakeholders to provide input and engage with CBP on the CTPAT program. This broader focus to encompass CTPAT Security will result in enhanced partnership and further program development to reflect the current trade climate.

This COAC session will focus on the following:

- Further develop the CTPAT program.
- Standardize the validation process.
- Review current benefits and propose actionable additional benefits for CTPAT partners.
- Review metrics that evaluate and mutually quantify benefit effectiveness for industry and government.
- Propose strategic interagency partnership engagement approach to trusted partners.
- Provide input on areas of CTPAT Trade Compliance related to benefits not previously recommended.

As a result of the revised SOW, the working group was expanded to include a Supervisory Supply Chain Security Specialist to provide knowledge about the validation process. The primary focus of the discussions has been on CTPAT Security validations and opportunities for efficiencies. CBP provided the group validation materials for review and comment, which is ongoing.

The TPE working group also discussed Regulatory Audit engagement. Representatives from Regulatory Audit and COAC had the opportunity for robust discussion of the various audit mechanisms and requisite information. The group will reconvene for further discussion.

Submitted by: Katharine Dervin, Acting Branch Chief, CTPAT

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