

## FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

### BORDER INTERAGENCY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### OVERVIEW:

- An expanded Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC) was formally established by Executive Order 13659 (February 19, 2014), “*Streamlining the Export/Import Process for America’s Businesses*,” and charged with improving coordination among the 47 agencies with import and export requirements. Executive Order 13659 has two main requirements: 1) the completion and government-wide utilization of the International Trade Data System (ITDS) by December 31, 2016 and 2) the establishment of a two-tiered governance structure to manage implementation.
- DHS has significant responsibilities for both requirements. In particular, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is the lead developer of the ITDS single-window.
- When implemented, ITDS will provide an automated and electronic single window for businesses to provide the information required by government for the export or import of cargo. This system will replace existing processes that are often redundant and paper-based, saving businesses time and money and allowing government to more effectively and efficiently fulfill its responsibilities.
- The BIEC includes executives from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Health and Human Services, Interior, Justice, State, Transportation, and Treasury. National Security Council (NSC) Staff, National Economic Council (NEC) Staff, and representatives from the Office of Management and Budget and the United States Trade Representative also attend.

#### BIEC STRUCTURE:

- The BIEC, chaired by DHS, provides strategic leadership and policy guidance to improve coordination among agencies with border responsibilities and between the U.S. Government and other stakeholders.
- The ITDS Board of Directors, an existing body created by statute<sup>1</sup> and chaired by the Department of the Treasury, continues to oversee the development of the “single-window” technical capabilities.
- The ITDS effort is integral to the BIEC effort where agencies work together to develop the single window ITDS system and work within the BIEC structure to develop and coordinate a more streamlined processes for ITDS implementation.

#### *BIEC Committee Structure:*

- The BIEC is comprised of senior officials that oversee the following agency level working committees:
  - Risk Management Committee (chaired by FDA)
  - Process Coordination Committee (chaired by CBP)
  - External Engagement Committee (chaired by Commerce)

#### *International Trade Data System*

- The ITDS establishes information communication capability that will allow businesses to transmit, through an electronic “single-window,” the data required by the U.S.

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<sup>1</sup> SAFE Port Act, Pub.L. 109–347, Section 405

Government to import or export cargo, and will enable the Government to speed its review of this information. The ITDS will replace the current approach by which businesses submit information to dozens of different government agencies, often on paper forms and via manual processes.

**STATUS UPDATE:**

The last BIEC Principals meeting took place on March 20, 2015. Agencies will test coordinated messaging as part of cross-agency pilots, and will continue to implement the import process solutions identified at the October 2014 BIEC tabletop exercise. Agencies will also support DHS efforts to complete a Time Release Study of current cargo release times, including providing access to relevant data as needed. BIEC Principals have endorsed the six proposed solutions identified in the October 2014 import table top scenarios, and tasked Committees with developing recommendations for implementing the solutions and reporting on progress at the next BIEC. The six proposed solutions are:

1. U.S. agencies should establish a coordinated, consolidated messaging capability to provide hold, detention and release status updates to trade. The trade community expressed a desire for more transparency in the hold process, and this functionality was developed with input from the COAC and will be a significant improvement.
2. U.S. agencies should build early system validations that electronically and automatically reject submissions of missing or inaccurate data. There has been a lack of U.S. Government transparency for PGA import transaction data requirements, and this process will enable the trade community to work with PGAs to resolve issues in advance of arrival. This solution was also developed in response to direct input from the COAC.
3. U.S. agencies (particularly those with the ability to hold cargo at the border) should have access to, and use, advance information, such as manifest, to target high-risk cargo prior to arrival or departure.
4. U.S. agencies should 1) develop mechanisms or capabilities to enhance communication of agency-specific risk factors; and, 2) build “business rules” in the system to automate targeting for common risk factors.
5. U.S. agencies should develop a harmonized identification mechanism for data elements (e.g., product, entity) included in the entry filing and message set.
6. U.S. agencies should establish a messaging capability that provides all appropriate agencies visibility to the final disposition and related enforcement actions.

Proposed solutions 1 and 2 are currently in ITDS production and will be tested beginning this year with the deployment of PGA ITDS capabilities. Efforts to implement proposed solutions 3 and 4 are still at the initial stages but are expected to be a focus of work in the coming year. Proposed solutions 5 and 6 are longer term initiatives, though the BIEC expects to begin work on implementing these initiatives in 2016. The BIEC is helping to coordinate the roll-out of PGA ITDS pilots and will help facilitate coordination across agencies. The PGA ITDS pilots will commence on August 19, 2015 following an eleven-day production testing period. The BIEC will oversee implementation of the cross-agency pilots, slated to begin in mid-September 2015.

**Next Meeting**

The next BIEC Principals meeting has not yet been scheduled.

**Contact:** Cynthia F. Whittenburg, Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs,  
Office of International Trade,

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