

COAC ONE U.S. GOVERNMENT AT THE BORDER SUBCOMMITTEE

General Description

Objective/Goal of the subcommittee

The primary objective/goal of the Subcommittee is to implement the January 15, 2013 COAC 12th Term Recommendation: *That CBP pursue interagency partnership programs following the principles and standards set forth in the One US Government Master Principles Document and progress toward completion can be measured via CBP reporting quarterly back to COAC on progress being made to implement programs that align with these principles, principally through the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC).*

The purpose of the above stated objective is to lower costs, increase competitiveness and increase ease of doing business, utilize as much of the current system design that is existing ensuring that a modern business model is being used for importing goods into the United States.

Where does it fit in our trade transformation strategy?

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Working Group: Modernization, Consistency & Harmonization, Co-Creation, Bi-Directional Education and the development of a Comprehensive Trusted Trader Program.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Working Group: Bi-Directional Education, Modernization, Co-Creation and Consistency & Harmonization.

Chair/Co-Chair Names

The COAC Trade Co-Chairs are Mary Ann Comstock, UPS Supply Chain Solutions and Susie Hoeger Abbott Laboratories. The government subcommittee Co-Chairs are Cynthia Whittenburg, Executive Director (as of September 2013), John Leonard, Acting Executive Director (March to September 2013), Executive Director Brenda Smith and Carol Cave, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC/ Vice chair to the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC)).

Number of Subcommittee participants from COAC

The One U.S. Government at the Border Subcommittee is comprised of 13 COAC members.

Working groups under subcommittee

1USG Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Working Group

Update:

- As of July 31st, the FDA working group has met once with FDA representatives Domenic Veneziano and his colleagues. During this session the trade working group members presented the 12 draft recommendations developed to date and sought FDA thoughts and comments. Given that there were no strong objections by FDA, the working group made no further changes.

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- The trade working group leadership collaborated with the 1USG subcommittee to reach consensus on the draft recommendations and mentioned FDA appropriately throughout the six recommendations presented. Only recommendation # 5 of these draft recommendations is currently FDA specific. In the other cases the original FDA working group recommendations were both consolidated and leveraged to broaden the scope to include additional Partner Government Agencies (PGAs) to accomplish a more streamlined one U.S. Government approach.
- The working group formulated recommendations in the areas of advance data reporting, single window, the need for common definition of data elements between agencies, the harmonization of exam protocols between agencies, incorporating the FDA and PGAs into the Centers of Excellence and Expertise as well as other general recommendations.

1USG Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Working Group

Update:

- The EPA working group has met twice since the August 7th public meeting. The two sessions were, in part, used to review the recommendations from the FDA working group and see where recommendations could be leveraged among the EPA and applied to other Partner Government Agencies. The EPA working group will not have any EPA specific recommendations to present at the November 15th public meeting.
- During the last two quarterly periods, the trade members were successful in providing trade feedback to the Environmental Protection Agency and CBP regarding EPA's pilot using the Partner Government Agency Message Set (PGA-MS). It is anticipated that the EPA and Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) pilots will commence shortly after the ACE Deployment A targeted for November 2, 2013. The EPA pilot incorporates feedback from the COAC EPA working group among input from other trade groups such as the Trade Support Network participants.
- The area of focus for EPA on this pilot is in Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Vehicles and Engines (V&E). The trade feedback has led to changes in the EPA pilot that will be helpful to both the government and the trade. CBP anticipates other Partner Government Agencies to benefit from the lessons learned by EPA and CBP regarding the use of the PGA-Message Set.
- As previously projected, the working group did not formulate specific EPA/CBP related recommendation in the areas of: blanket declarations, expansion of the CBP 5106 for partner government agency or account management requirements. The working group does maintain the need for common definition of data elements between agencies and to see this theme carried forward to a broader subcommittee recommendation.

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2013 Trade Efficiency Survey PGA Analysis Review Team

- Members of the 1USG subcommittee assisted with the analysis of the 2013 Trade Efficiency Survey results and plan to present these results to the BIEC at the appropriate time.

Highlights

Accomplishments:

- The 1USG subcommittee trade leadership met with incoming government co-chair Cynthia Whittenburg to provide her an overview of subcommittee and working group accomplishments to date. The leadership will plan out a strategy for the second year of the 13th term and beyond within the next several weeks.
- The 1USG FDA Working Group met with FDA representatives regarding the work of the COAC working group on July 31st.
- Following discussion with the COAC 1USG EPA working group the EPA was able to change the EPA PGA MS samples and guidelines in the areas of eliminating repeating entity information, elimination of parallel data elements, and the elimination of data elements. This has proven to be a win-win for both the private sector and the government agencies.
- The 1USG subcommittee met on October 18th and reviewed the draft subcommittee recommendations anticipated for a vote during the November session. The subcommittee discussions focused on the progress of the two working groups (EPA and FDA), the expanded role of the Border Interagency Executive Council –and the complementary technical work of the International Trade Data System (ITDS) Board of Directors.