CBP Trade Enforcement—Operational Approach

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, enforces U.S. trade laws to protect America’s economic security. CBP uses all of its authorities to combat trade fraud by 

**Detecting** high-risk activity, 

**Deterring** non-compliance, and 

**Disrupting** fraudulent behavior. A range of enforcement actions are used to punish criminal violators to the fullest extent of the law.

CBP coordinates with U.S. industries, 47 U.S. agency partners, and foreign governments to detect anomalies, trends, and violations in the global supply chain to target high-risk shipments and promote compliance. By collaborating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, CBP is able to combat criminal organizations that illegally exploit American trade and conduct enforcement operations at and beyond the border to ensure U.S. industry can compete on a level playing field.

How is CBP ensuring economic security?

**Detect**

*Detect high-risk activity*

- Perform increased exams, inspections, reviews, lab tests, and targeted audits on transactions in high-risk industries
- Focus resources on non-compliance at 10 industry centers
- Perform national targeting to identify non-compliant trade
- Use predictive analysis to identify suspicious importations
- Leverage e-Allegations, intelligence, and industry collaboration to identify high-risk trade

**Deter**

*Deterr non-compliance*

- Assess civil penalties with the ultimate goal of changing violators’ behavior
- Increase bond amounts to deter flagrant violators from continuing illegitimate business activities
- Seize prohibited goods
- Take legal actions to collect duties from delinquent sureties
- Disclose the names of violators for closed cases where appropriate
- Publicize CBP successes in combating trade compliance violations or trade fraud

**Disrupt**

*Disrupt fraudulent behavior*

- Collaborate with ICE to develop cases, execute civil penalty actions, and prosecute criminals
- Impose sanctions on importers with recurring unpaid debt, requiring upfront payment in addition to bonding
- Exercise statutory summons authority
- Use full range of enforcement authorities to disrupt customs law violators

**Fair and Competitive Trade**

- CBP works to ensure a fair and competitive trade environment where the benefits of trade compliance exceed the costly consequences of violating U.S. trade laws.
- A proactive, aggressive, and dynamic trade enforcement system protects the American consumer and facilitates the benefits of international trade while allowing U.S. domestic industry to compete in a global marketplace.