

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS TO
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (COAC)
Government Report on: *COAC 2016 Role of the Broker Working Group.*
January 2016**

COAC 2016 Broker Regulations Working Group

SUMMARY:

- On January 13, 2016, the COAC Trade Modernization Subcommittee will announce the development of a new working group called the Broker Regulations Working Group.
- Building from previous efforts, the COAC Broker Regulations Working Group's purpose is to recommend appropriate actions to modernize 19 CFR 111, while also promoting transparency and collaboration among stakeholders with equities in 19 CFR 111.
- The COAC Broker Regulations Working Group will include participants from the trade community, including the National Customs Broker and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA), express couriers, importers; CBP representatives, including Centers of Excellence and Expertise (CEE) leadership, Office of Field Operations (OFO), the Office of Administration (OA) and the Office of International Trade (OT).
- The working group will tackle recommendations in at least four categories of challenges: permits, data and reporting, management of operations, and fees.
- The kick-off for the working group will be January 19-20, 2016 in Alexandria, VA.
- The group will provide regular updates and legal checks, finalize recommendations by March 2016, and present the recommendations at the April 2016 COAC meeting.
- With these recommendations, CBP will publish a Notice of Public Rule Making (NPRM) describing the anticipated changes and solicit comments.

BACKGROUND

- In October 2015, following extensive discussion with NCBFAA, CBP and NCBFAA agreed to convene a workgroup to include representation of all stakeholders impacted by changes to 19 CFR 111, including industry representatives such as importers and express couriers. This group will progress specifically on the strides made within the Role of the Broker initiative to provide recommendations to COAC on the best approach to modernize 19 CFR 111.
- On November 20, 2015, OT, the Office of Trade Relations (OTR), and NCBFAA agreed that a new COAC working group, would be initiated at the January 2016 COAC meeting.
- Since 2011, CBP has led engagement with industry stakeholders to identify the necessary and agreed upon changes to modernize 19 CFR 111, Customs Brokers' regulations.
- CBP has led 10 webinars reaching at least 400 participants each, 32 roundtables, 2 working groups, and in 2015, led 7 collaborative meetings to inform and discuss potential regulatory changes with stakeholders.
- For more information on this initiative, please reference COAC recommendations from the Role of the Broker Working Group.