

## **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:**

BIEC Principals have endorsed proposed solutions to issues identified by the COAC that were developed through import table top scenarios conducted in 2014. The BIEC tasked the Committees with developing recommendations for implementing the solutions, and the PGA management representatives who address policy issues through the BIEC are working with their respective technical staff to implement the solutions via ACE-ITDS pilots. The initial solutions focus on developing and implementing the new 1-USG hold release messaging for more clarity on PGA-specific actions and mechanisms to allow earlier reporting and earlier messaging to enable the PGAs and the Trade to identify and resolve issues prior to arrival. The BIEC is currently focused on supporting the roll-out of PGA ITDS pilots and will utilize these pilots to develop more integrated and systemic cross-agency coordination in processing imports.

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