

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

One U.S. Government at the Border Subcommittee Executive Summary – Trade Progress Report November 2013

1. Background:

The Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of Customs and Border Protection (COAC) determined to carry on the work from the 12th Term COAC One US Government at the Border Subcommittee. The Mission 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).

Trade chairs: Mary Ann Comstock, Susie Hoeger

Government: Cynthia Whittenburg, CBP, Carol Cave – U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Vice Chair- Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC)

Outline of Work

The Subcommittee continued their work in promoting the One USG Master Principles document through the two active Working Groups: the EPA Working Group and the FDA Working Group.

2. Summary of Work

EPA Working Group

The EPA Working Group from the Trade is made up of importers, customs brokers and software providers. In conjunction with CBP and EPA representatives, the EPA Working Group completed its' review of the Partner Government Agency Message Set (PGA MS) for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Vehicles & Engines (V & E).

The outcomes of the EPA Working Group Trade partnership with CBP and EPA were numerous, and included:

- Detailed review of initial PGA Message Sets samples yielded good information about what was available from the trade and when it was available as goods moved through the international supply chain.
- The open dialogue and constructive suggestions assisted EPA in modifying the PGA Message Sets, eliminating duplicate data elements and mapping the paper forms data to the PGA MS (a best practice as the PGA MS development moves ahead).

- The possibilities of a combined PGA MS between EPA and DOT, as both agencies have interest in imported vehicles.
- Dialog between EPA, the importer, the customs broker and the software vendors/developers allowed for an improved PGA MS product because all parties who create/manipulate/transmit and receive the data had a better understanding of each parties needs and accommodations/innovations were allowed to occur.

The EPA Working Group then had the opportunity to review the work product of the FDA Working Group in preparation for this meeting, and provided their input to the Subcommittee.

FDA Working Group

The FDA working group was formed with representation from the FDA-regulated industries, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and food, as well as express couriers. Many of the members have already been working on FDA-related initiatives via other groups and coalitions.

In alignment with the BIEC goals, the FDA Working Group drafted several recommendations in the areas of Information Sharing, Automation, and Partnership Programs. The group met via teleconference with Domenic Veneziano of FDA to get the agency's feedback on the proposed recommendations. No strong objections were raised.

The FDA working group leads (Susie Hoeger and Scott Boyer) then met with the EPA working group lead (Mary Ann Comstock) to modify the recommendations to make them more broadly applicable to all PGAs, where appropriate. Those revised recommendations were then further vetted with the full 1USG subcommittee at their regular meeting, resulting in the final set of recommendations that will be presented to the full COAC for consideration.

Trade Efficiency Survey Analysis Review Team

Members of the 1 USG at the Border Subcommittee have participated in the review of the PGA section of the 2nd Annual Trade Efficiency Survey conducted by COAC earlier this year. This important survey will assist the 1 USG at the Border Subcommittee in identifying new focus areas for the balance of the 13th COAC term and may lead to future recommendations from the Trade perspective over the next 6 month period.

3. Recommendations

The 1 US Government at the Border Subcommittee has prepared a list of recommendations, recognizing U.S. Customs & Border Protections' work towards the One US Government Single Window Concept bringing to fruition the International Trade Data Set (ITDS).

The recommendations are provided under separate cover and should not be posted until the full COAC agrees and adopts them.