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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?

One U.S. Government at the Border (IUSG) Subcommittee: addresses five of CBP's guiding principles for our trade transformation strategy: Modernization, Consistency & Harmonization, Co-Creation, Bi-Directional Education and the development of a Comprehensive Trusted Trader Program.

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

IUSG Import Mapping Working Group: Consistency & Harmonization, Modernization, Co-Creation and Bi-Directional Education.

Chair/Co-Chair Names

The COAC Trade Co-Chairs are Mary Ann Comstock, UPS Supply Chain Solutions and Susie Hoeger Abbott Laboratories. Scott Boyer, Kraft Foods Group is a COAC lead on the FDA Working Group. The government subcommittee Co-Chairs are Cynthia Whittenburg, Executive Director, 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 12 COAC members. In addition, the subcommittee has participation from two partner government agencies, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and in the recent past worked with the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies.

Contact: Michael Schreffler, OTR – Designated Federal Officer – One U.S. Government at the Border Subcommittee

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014

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Meetings

This quarter, the 1USG subcommittee met June 5th, July 24th, August 21st and September 11th, 2014 to further discuss draft recommendations from the FDA working group, the findings of the import mapping working group, and to analyze the results of the 2014 COAC Trade Efficiency Survey as it relates to Partner Government Agency questions. The subcommittee is also focused on addressing various priorities that the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC) and the International Trade Data System Board of Directors identified and how the 1USG subcommittee can assist by providing input on priorities from the trade community.

Current working groups under the 1USG subcommittee

1USG Food and Drug Administration Working Group (FDA WG)

During the May 22nd Public Quarterly COAC meeting, Commissioner Kerlikowske announced the formation of a FDA working group under the 1USG Subcommittee. This working group is focused on finding solutions on improving data quality, processes, information technology and communications to help implement best practices between agencies, ensure accuracy of data and expedite low risk products. With approximately 50% of fresh fruits and 20% of fresh vegetables, as well as 80% of seafood, 40% of finished drugs and over 50% of all medical devices used in the U.S. are imported it is critical to focus attention on this partner government agency.

- The COAC One U.S. Government at the Border Subcommittee's 2014 FDA working group was launched on June 11, 2014 at which time Douglas Stearn, Director, Office of Enforcement and Import Operations and Captain Domenic Veneziano, Director, Division of Import Operation from the Food and Drug Administration provided an overview of the challenge FDA faces in preparing for the implementation of the single window. During this meeting it was identified that the COAC FDA working group would focus on four strategic areas: data quality, the processes, information technology and communications.
- The working group identified that there were significant differences between industry sectors regulated by the FDA so identified industry sector teams to further address industry issues. The original three industry sector team included a food sector, pharmaceutical and medical device sector team.
- The FDA working group met an additional two times this quarter, on June 24th, a working group conference call was held to discuss how the working group would be structured into industry teams and an overview of the FDA Medical Device Report on data quality errors which was used as the basis for delving into quality areas in other industry sectors. On July 28th the FDA working group held a two hour meeting to identify "what has been discussed to date" among the food industry sector and the pharmaceutical and medical devices industry sector teams.

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- The food sector team met on July 1st, July 8th, July 15th, July 22nd and August 12th and developed 40 draft recommendations regarding Foreign Entity resolution, Product Code resolution, government –trade messaging, and communications & training issues.
- The pharmaceutical industry and the medical device sectors each independently met on July 10th and July 17th but the two sectors merged to form one team since there were overlapping issues. The joint group continued to meet on July 29th and August 5th.

1USG Import Mapping Working Group (IMWG)

The 1USG Subcommittee, in consultation with the full Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (COAC), in March formed an Import Mapping Working Group (IMWG) with the intent to provide industry feedback through evaluation and documentation of the current U.S. importing process as it relates to CBP and those Partner Government Agencies (PGAs) that have an impact on trade facilitation. The IMWG has identified opportunities to improve the current import process and is providing its findings in an import map education package.

- The education package diagrams the main import sector's current process as it relates to cargo movements by air, air express, ocean, rail, and truck, and documents the current data gathering by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as well as PGAs. The IMWG document highlights existing challenges and provides possible solutions to create a more efficient, streamlined import process, so the whole of government and the trade will benefit as the development of the ITDS/Single Window work in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) progresses.
- The 1USG IMWG met on May 29th, June 19th, June 26th, July 14th and September 8th to finalize the development of the education packages related to the import processes in the ocean, rail, truck, air cargo, and express courier environments. These packages will be used as a tool to educate members of the various Border Inter-Agency Executive Council Committee members as to how the trade community operates. On Tuesday July 29th, COAC members Mary Ann Comstock and William Earle presented the preliminary IMWG findings to the Process Coordination Committee of the BIEC. This mapping exercise was done from the perspective of the trade community.
- The IMWG presented its findings to the COAC's One U.S. Government at the Border (1USG) Subcommittee and the ACE Business Office (ABO/OT), Trade Policy and Programs (TPP/OT) and Cargo and Conveyance Security (CCS/OFO) on September 19th.

2014 Trade Efficiency Survey PGA Analysis Review Team

- Members of the 1USG subcommittee assisted with the analysis of the 2014 Trade Efficiency Survey results and plan to present these results to the COAC, CBP, and the BIEC at the appropriate time.

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Highlights

Accomplishments:

- It is anticipated that during the October 7th public COAC meeting the FDA working group will present a set of recommendations that will help improve the four identified areas of data quality, the processes, information technology and communications within the Single Window environment. The ACE Agile team has begun work with the FDA in August and it is expected that the COAC recommendations will be addressed. In addition, the FDA working group identified several FDA specific recommendations and will present these during the COAC public meeting. These recommendations are not catalogued as part of the Federal Advisory Committee Act processes but will be provided to FDA as guidance on how things could be improved regarding trade facilitation.
- The 1USG Import Mapping Working Group provided an overview their working product to the BIEC Process Coordination Committee (PCC) on July 29th and to members of CBP ACE Business Office (OT), Cargo and Conveyance Security Division (OFO) and Trade Policy and Programs (OT) on September 19th. It is anticipated that the 1USG will vote on submitting the work product of the IMWG during the public quarterly meeting on Tuesday October 7th.
- The 1USG subcommittee already presented seven recommendations at the November 15, 2013 Public COAC meeting which were unanimously adopted by the COAC membership. CBP is working on addressing these recommendations.

Next Steps

The subcommittee is exploring the idea of creating a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Working Group to obtain private sector feedback in the area of CPSC proposed regulatory and policy changes. The working group will commence after the completion of the Import Mapping Working Group work is completed.