

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS OF
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION**

Trusted Trader Subcommittee

Co-chairs:

Bill Ferguson, NYK Line North America

Bill Earle, National Association of Beverage Importers

Beginning with the January 2014 cycle the subcommittee met via nine CBP organized conference calls. Other inputs to the subcommittee came during in person meetings of the entire COAC when updates were provided to COAC members and CBP leadership.

The anticipated tasks for this term of the subcommittee centered around input to and monitoring of the Trusted Trader Pilot and refinement of the C-TPAT for exports.

Briefings by CBP subject matter experts and program coordinators informed the subcommittee members on the status of both of our monitored program areas. As these initiatives evolved we interacted on the more holistic developments in the areas of Mutual Recognition and AEO activity. The subcommittee determined that these areas are ripe for further development and consideration as we better define and populate the internationalized concept of a “trusted trader.”

Subcommittee member dialogs with the trade in general were brought to our discussions and considered for expanding or perhaps better defining the mandate to this subcommittee. This is a work still in process.

Several of our monitored CBP programs are at the advanced engagement stage but not yet untethered for full implementation. We continue to receive updates from the CBP program owners. We received more clarity on the characteristics of future initiatives such as Aqua Lane, MRAs with partner governments and the selection of CBP program office leaders.

In the spirit of our mandate as the eyes and ears of the Trade community, subcommittee members analyzed trusted trader initiatives from various sources. We continue to evaluate these ideas at the time of this report. This falls within the perceived charter of the subcommittee to harmonize the trusted trade badge with the more general understanding of the trade and the public of that term. A view in this area may include a consideration of how AEO programs in partner governments mesh with Trusted Trader.

As the membership of the COAC moves through the normal two year personnel transitions we hope to better define the best use of the subcommittee resources to support CBP in our advisory role.