

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee  
Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee  
Executive Summary**

June 2024

**COAC**

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COMMERCIAL CUSTOMS OPERATIONS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)  
June 2024**

**Report of the Work of the COAC  
Subcommittee on Next Generation Facilitation**

**Co-Chairs**

Tom Gould – Flexport  
Kerry Novak – Emerson Electric Co.

**Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee Members:**

Brian Barber, Angela Cook, Dave Corn, John Drake, Mary Hodges, Julie Pojar, Cynthia Roller, Craig Seelig, Stephen Simmons, Travis Skinner, Matt Zehner

**Background:**

Background information on the subcommittee, including its overall focus.

The following working groups make up the Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee:

- 1) Automated Commercial Environment 2.0 (ACE 2.0-WG) chaired by Tom Gould
- 2) Broker Modernization Working Group (BMWG), chaired by Brian Barber
- 3) Customs Interagency Industry Working Group (CIIWG), chaired by Craig Seelig
- 4) Modernization of Entry Processes Working Group (MEPWG), co-chaired by Brian Barber and Angela Cook
- 5) Passenger Air Operations Working Group (PAOWG), co-chaired by John Drake and Matt Zehner

All subcommittee objectives and scope are consistent with the official charter of COAC.

**Summary of Work**

The Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee has the responsibility of looking at opportunities to enhance the trade and government processes, policies, and programs, enabling the trade and CBP to be better positioned for the future. The subcommittee currently consists of five active working groups. The subcommittee will leverage its active working groups and trade stakeholders to provide feedback on the various challenges facing CBP and the trade and collaborate to help CBP achieve its dual goal of trade facilitation and enforcement.

There are seven (7) recommendations that will be made by Next Generation working groups at the June 26<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

**ACE 2.0:**

ACE 2.0 Working Group advises CBP with insight on how ACE 2.0 can better facilitate the entry process by identifying gaps covering entry, manifest, security, Import Security Filing (ISF), Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS), post entry, audit and export by ensuring collection of the best and most reliable data; enabling risk management and cargo decisions further in advance of

cargo arrival; harmonizing procedures to enhance predictability and reduce friction for trade and government stakeholders; and utilizing the full potential of automation to scale critical operations. The objectives of the working group are to recommend an operational framework for an improved ACE 2.0 Customs process; Move data collections further in advance of cargo arrival and/or departure; and identify areas in the Customs process that will benefit from automations and modernization.

The ACE 2.0 Working Group met one (1) time this quarter to discuss the status of the ACE 2.0 project, including changes to the project at the direction of the Department of Homeland Security to a more streamlined ACE modernization approach. CBP still anticipates that software development work on ACE 2.0 capabilities can begin in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 timeframe, provided funding is available.

The ACE 2.0 Working Group has no recommendations to submit for the June 26<sup>th</sup> Public meeting.

### **Customs Interagency Industry (CII):**

The CII working group met three times over this past quarter. We discussed several topics including receiving an update from CBP on the ACE 2.0 project and how this working group might be able to assist in the future. We also identified some PGA processes that are not currently processed in ACE as candidates for future automation.

The Customs Interagency Industry Working Group has no recommendations to submit for the June 26<sup>th</sup> Public meeting.

### **Passenger Air Operations:**

The Passenger Air Operations (PAO) Working Group, was formed for industry to have the opportunity to identify modernized passenger processing rules and regulations, streamline the passenger experience at U.S. ports of entry, and identify challenges that impact operations.

Since the last public meeting in March 2024, the Working Group's leadership met with CBP leadership to discuss CBP feedback on past recommendations, landing rights issues, and to plan future goals and work for the Group. Trade leadership is contacting industry members to determine whether more work and meetings are necessary.

The Passenger Air Operations Working Group has no recommendations to submit for the June 2024 public meeting.

### **Modernization of Entry Process:**

As part of the COAC's work under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Customs Framework during the 16th term, The Next Generation Facilitation subcommittee has gained the Modernization of Entry Processes Working Group (MEPWG).

The MEPWG met three (3) times this quarter with a specific focus on the Broker Cybersecurity Incident Procedures document published by CBP on 03/13/2024. The group has spent considerable time discussing language and seeking clarification on points which affect the customs brokerage community.

Once cybersecurity discussions are concluded the group will work towards the goal of examining different aspects of the entry process, with a specific focus on post release processes.

The MEPWG has no recommendations to be submitted during the June 26<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

### **Broker Modernization:**

Under the 17<sup>th</sup> term, COAC moved the Broker Modernization Working Group (BMWG) from the Rapid Response Subcommittee to the Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee.

The BMWG met four (4) times this quarter and continued 90-minute sessions to discuss modernizing the Customs Brokers Licensing Exam (CBLE). The group has spent significant time discussing exam frequency, structure, administration and content. Focus sessions have concluded with feedback being provided to CBP.

Additionally, BMWG spent time discussing the May 1 CBLE, both in preparation for and in debrief post examination.

The BMWG has seven (7) recommendations that will be submitted during the June 26<sup>th</sup> public meeting. All recommendations center on the CBLE and aim to improve the administration and exam experience.

### **Conclusion**

The Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee will continue to leverage the existing working groups and its many trade stakeholders to provide feedback on the various challenges facing CBP and the Trade and collaborate to help CBP achieve its dual goals of trade facilitation and enforcement.