

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee
Government Issue Paper
Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee
Broker Modernization Working Group**

June 2024



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**



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**Office of Trade/Trade Policy and Programs
Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee
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Action Required: Informational

Background:

- The Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Broker Modernization Working Group's engagement is critical to the success of CBP's modernization efforts across the broker industry, including critical broker regulatory and exam changes.
- The Final Rule on Continuing Education for Licensed Customs Brokers, published June 23, 2023, amends regulations to require continuing education for individually licensed customs brokers and provides the framework for administering this requirement.
- In November 2023, CBP kicked off consultation focus sessions with the Broker Modernization Working Group on CBP's effort to re-envision the Customs Broker License Exam (CBLE), with the intent of providing consistent and reliable exam content across administrations and ensuring an efficient exam process from exam creation through delivery.

Issue:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is engaging with the Broker Modernization Working Group on CBP's implementation of the Broker Continuing Education Final Rule and how CBP can most effectively ensure every individually-licensed broker is aware of the new requirement.
- A focus of CBP and the Broker Modernization Working Group's partnership is on re-envisioning the CBLE for exam candidates and to administer a modern, consistent, and reliable CBLE.

Current Status:

Broker Continuing Education

- CBP is finalizing the selection of five accreditors to partner with us to approve industry-offered activities that qualify as continuing education.
- CBP and U.S. partner government agencies are coordinating the implementation of broker continuing education for Government-offered education opportunities, mostly at no cost to customs brokers.

Re-envisioning the Customs Broker License Exam (CBLE)

- CBP and the Broker Modernization Working Group have completed eight focus sessions on the future state of CBLE. Those sessions covered key challenge areas including exam creation, exam administration, and post exam processes.
- As a result, CBP and the Broker Modernization Working Group came to consensus on high-level recommendations to modernize the administration of the CBLE and to improve the experience of a CBLE examinee.

May 2024 CBLE

- A total of 1,132 individuals registered to take the May 1, 2024 CBLE. Of this total, 953 took the exam at on-site test centers and 179 took the exam remotely. The pass rate for the May 1, 2024 exam was 13 percent.
- CBP instituted changes to the administration of the May 1, 2024 CBLE to improve the exam experience for CBLE examinees.
 - CBP hosted an informational session on April 10, 2024, for all individuals registered for the exam.
 - CBP overhauled the CBLE webpage to streamline information and make the page more user friendly.
 - CBP fielded more than 307 pre-exam emails answering questions on topics such as site selection, registration, etc.

Next Steps:

Broker Continuing Education

- Once the accreditor agreements are signed, CBP will work with selected accreditors to finalize implementation of the continuing education program, including development of accreditor standard operating procedures, policies, communications plans, and a program compliance date.
- In the coming months, CBP will issue a Federal Register Notice to announce:
 - The accreditors, their contact information, and websites.
 - The number of credit hours an individual broker will need before the 2027 Triennial Status Report.
 - The date individual brokers may begin earning broker continuing education credits for the 2024-2027 Triennial Status Period.

Re-envisioning the CBLE

- CBP, in consultation with the Broker Modernization Work Group, will implement the consensus-based recommendations to modernize CBLE to develop and administer a modern, consistent, and reliable CBLE that accurately tests examinees on the requisite knowledge for conducting customs business in the modern operating environment.

Bi-Annual CBLE

CBP will offer the next broker exam on October 23, 2024.

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