

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee
Government Issue Paper
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee
Trade Partnership and Engagement Working Group**

June 2024



**U.S. Customs and
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**Cargo and Conveyance Security/Office of Field Operations
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee
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Action Required: Informational

Background:

The 16th term of the Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) was a continuation of the Trusted Trader Working Group which changed its name to Trade Partnership and Engagement (TPE) Working Group. The previous COAC subcommittee provided CBP with recommendations for the transition from the Importer Self-Assessment (ISA) program to the CTPAT Trade Compliance program. Former ISA participants were automatically enrolled in the CTPAT Trade Compliance program and new applicants could apply beginning August 1, 2022.

Current Status:

The revised Statement of Work (SOW) for the Trade Partnership and Engagement (TPE) Working Group shifts its emphasis towards the CTPAT Security program, while still advancing the Trade Compliance program. By moving the focus from Trade Compliance importers to all security entities, a wider range of trade stakeholders can offer feedback and interact with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regarding the CTPAT program. This expanded focus is expected to strengthen partnerships and advance program development in alignment with the prevailing trade environment.

This COAC session is focusing on the following:

- Expanding the CTPAT program.
- Standardizing the validation process.
- Reviewing current benefits and proposing additional benefits for CTPAT partners.
- Evaluating metrics that assess and quantitatively measure the effectiveness of benefits for both industry and government.
- Proposing a strategic interagency partnership engagement approach to trusted traders.
- Providing input on areas of CTPAT Trade Compliance related to benefits not previously recommended.

Under the revised SOW, a CTPAT Supervisory Supply Chain Security Specialist (SCSS) joined the working group to provide knowledge about the validation process. The primary focus of the discussions, which are still ongoing, has been on CTPAT security validations and opportunities to reduce inconsistencies in the process. The group is also reviewing benefits available to Trade Compliance members.

Earlier this year, representatives from CBP's Regulatory Audit office provided insight into various audit mechanisms and requisite information that may be streamlined as part of the CTPAT Trade Compliance program annual review process. The group is set to reconvene for further discussion.

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