

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

December 2024



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

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

Background:

- CBP's engagement with the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Broker Modernization Working Group is critical to U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) modernization efforts across the broker industry.
- The *Final Rule on Continuing Education for Licensed Customs Brokers*, which published June 23, 2023, amends regulations to require 36 hours of continuing education (CE) for individually licensed customs brokers every 3 years.
- This working group presented eight consensus-based recommendations at the June 26, 2024, public COAC meeting, after a CBP-led focus session on re-envisioning the Customs Broker License Exam (CBLE). The intent of the re-envisioning effort is to provide consistent and reliable exam content across administrations and ensure an efficient exam process from creation through delivery.

Issue:

- CBP engages with the Broker Modernization Working Group on a host of broker modernization efforts, including broker CE and re-envisioning the CBLE.

Current Status:

Broker Continuing Education

- Throughout the summer and fall, CBP worked closely with the accreditors to implement the CE program, including:
 - Developing accreditor standard operating procedures, policies, and communications plans
 - Preparing websites
- On November 1, 2024, CBP published a Federal Register notice, [*Continuing Education Requirement for Licensed Customs Brokers*](#), which included:
 - The accreditors
 - The January 1, 2025, compliance date when individual brokers may begin earning broker CE credits for the 2024–2027 triennial status period
 - The 20 credit hours an individual broker will need by the end of the 2027 Triennial Status Report period that ends January 31, 2027
- CBP and U.S. partner government agencies coordinate the implementation of broker CE for Government-offered education. These opportunities will be mostly low cost or free to individual customs brokers.

Re-envisioning the Customs Broker License Exam

- CBP works to implement the Broker Modernization Working Group's recommendations to:
 - Modernize CBLE's administration (including exam administration), CBLE development, and the post-exam experience.
 - Improve the CBLE examinees' experience.

October 2024 CBLE

- CBP offered both in-person and remote-proctored seats to 1,045 candidates at the October 23 exam.
- The CBLE's pass rate was 24 percent. The exam and answer key were posted to CBP.gov, and examinees were notified of their scores.

Next Steps:

Broker Continuing Education

- CBP will continue communicating the requirements across the brokerage community to ensure the 13,000 individually licensed brokers reach compliance.

Re-envisioning the CBLE

- CBP will continue to implement the COAC recommendations to modernize the CBLE, which tests the requisite knowledge for conducting customs business in the modern operating environment.

Submitted by: Shari McCann, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of Trade

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