

Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Government Issue Paper: Intelligent Enforcement Subcommittee/ Broker Exam Work Group

October 2020



U.S. Customs and
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Trade Policy and Programs

Office of Trade

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Action Required: Informational

Background:

- CBP created the Broke Exam Work Group (BEWG) to address all aspects of the Customs Broker License Exam (CBLE) and receive advice to make the exam process more efficient and attainable.
- CBP's discussions with Broker Exam Work Group have been critical to the 2020 exam administration.
- The BEWG identified broker exam process areas of concern and proposed interim solutions.
- The BEWG provided recommendations to address concerns around the registration and identification of test takers. CBP is currently considering these ideas.
- The BEWG played a critical role in identifying alternative methods for 2020 exam administration, the steps for a backup plan at the ports of entry, and potential use of broker locations.

Issue:

- Trade community members continue to request modifications to address CBLE testing processes and procedures. The work group has recommended some workable solutions to address broker exam concerns.

Current Status:

- The BEWG meets virtually on a bi-weekly schedule.
- Meetings have been going well and great progress has been made on short-term and long-term goals for modernizing the broker exam.
- The BEWG continues to discuss COVID-19 contingency plans for the upcoming exam. A draft decision tree was created and presented to the working group to address general issues.
- The BEWG reviewed broker exam testing locations and developed mitigation strategies for sites that are not close to alternative locations.
- The BEWG tentatively agreed to participate in future exam prototypes and pilot programs.

Next Steps:

- Review and update CBLE process, and enhance exam automation.
- Combine the eCBP electronic registration process and applicant site selection.
- Streamline the CBLE identification (ID) process and maintain 19 CFR 111 ID requirements.
- Reduce the CBP processing time for applicant broker exam appeals.
- Resolve the trade community's concerns related to exam vendor locations.
- Continue to discuss and work through COVID-19 contingency plans.
- CBP will provide work group with post exam review for analysis of 2020 exam questions. This process will provide all applicants a chance to obtain credit for exam question(s).