Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee

March 2022

COAC

COMMERCIAL CUSTOMS OPERATIONS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Report of the Work of the COAC
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee

Subcommittee Trade Co-Chairs
Angela Cook – General Motors Tax Staff - Global Customs
Jose Gonzalez – JD Gonzalez Customs Broker
Stephen Simmons - The Kansas City Southern Railway Company

Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee Members:

Dave Corn, Michael Slonim, Chris Everly, Kerry Novak, Julie Pojar

Background
During our initial onboarding meeting of the 16th Term of COAC held on January 21st and 24th, 2021, CBP announced the structuring of the COAC Subcommittees continuing the work of the COAC 15th with its underlying working groups to align with CBP's 21st Century framework. This strategy focuses on uninterrupted improvement in the four areas aimed at modernizing the import/export processes, improving trade intelligence, and maximizing automated efficiencies. These areas are to enhance trusted trader, manage imports and exports through the 1USG single window, deploy authentication technologies to reduce supply chain barriers, and ensure e-commerce shipments are secure.

Under the Secure Trade Lanes (STL) subcommittee, the following active working groups are in place:
- Export Modernization Working Group co-chaired by Director James Swanson, Dave Corn and Michael Slonim
- In-Bond Working Group, co-chaired by Director James Swanson, Chris Everly and Jose (JD) Gonzalez.
- Trusted Trader Working Group co-chaired by Director Manuel Garza, Angela Cook, Kerry Novak and Julie Pojar.
- Remote and Autonomous Cargo Processing Working Group co-chaired by Director Daniel Randall and Stephen Simmons

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

Summary of Work
Since our initial Onboarding COAC webinar on January 22nd and 24th, 2022 the STL Subcommittee has held one (1) webinar to discuss the role of the Co-leads, define the Statement of Work (SOW) for each subcommittee and describe the activity of each working group as outlined below.

In-Bond Work Group
Since the June 23, 2021 COAC public meeting, the In-Bond Working Group has held one (1) Team lead work group webinar. The discussions was to invite productive members to the work group (WG), focus on continued improvement with visibility and automation that were initiated by the 15th COAC WG, as well as addressing future In-Bond processes and key regulatory reform issues that fall into the 21st Century framework.

Trusted Trader Work Group
Trusted Trader is an integration of the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) and Trade Compliance programs into a consolidated program that includes supply chain security and trade compliance. The Trusted Trader Working Group (TTWG) is responsible for assisting with the ongoing development of an enhanced Trusted Trader program in line with the Trusted Trader Strategy Framework. Since the last public COAC meeting which was help on June 23, 2021, the TTWG has met twice to onboard the 16th term COAC members and to begin the dialogue for the new term. The WG also met with representatives from the FDA regarding possible integration of FDA Trusted Trader opportunities. The TTWG will continue to work together to identify the Trusted Trader Forced Labor requirements, program benefits and corresponding metrics

Export Modernization Work Group
The Export Modernization Working Group (EMWG) advises the COAC related to export procedures, enforcement, and facilitation issues. Since the last public meeting on June 23, 2021, the EMWG has met twice to onboard the 16th COAC members and to build the team to continue the dialogue for objectives that were introduced in the 15th COAC. We will continue the work from the "2Q2021 Export Modernization White Paper V1", with a primary focus to launch electronic export manifest for all modes of transportation. We will also work to finalize the true owners of the data elements for export and we will review the post-departure filing program to determine next steps. We appreciate all of the work from the 15th COAC to create this critical export modernization framework.

Remote & Autonomous Cargo Processing Working Group
The Remote and Autonomous Cargo Processing Working Group (RACP WG) advises CBP on issues related to the use of advanced technology within a cargo processing environment. It is responsible for establishing a clear vision of autonomous environments and speculating how customs operations should be built to afford efficiencies both to traders and to the U.S. government. The working group will illustrate autonomous conveyance and cargo processing in each environment, provide a cost/benefit/risk analysis from the perspective of both industry and the US government, modernization of customs operations to fully realize the benefit of this technology, and identification of individual approaches that need to evolve as the trade moves to autonomous conveyance and CBP moves toward automated cargo ports of entry.

Since the last public meeting on June 23rd, 2021 and the conclusion of the 15th COAC, there has been one (1) Team lead meeting. This meeting was used to onboard new 16th COAC leads and members and to review the outstanding work completed by the 15th COAC members, including the comprehensive and informative White Paper. This meeting was also used to identify and invite productive members to the working group for future collaboration.

Conclusion

Going forward, the STL Subcommittee will continue to leverage the existing work accomplished by the 15th COAC subcommittee to improve the cargo operations processing to go along with the potential regulatory changes necessary to support the 21st century framework. The formation of the 16th COAC work groups consisting of its many trade stakeholders will provide guidance on the various challenges in the STL, which should be able to help CBP achieve its dual goals of trade facilitation and enforcement with the 21st century framework