

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee  
Government Issue Paper  
Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee  
21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF) Task Force**

**December 2022**



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

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**Office of Trade  
Next Generation Facilitation Subcommittee  
21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF) Task Force  
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**Action Required:** Informational

**Background:**

- The 21st Century Customs Framework (21CCF) is CBP's modernization effort that seeks to position the agency for the future of trade through updates to CBP's Title 19 authorities.
- In pursuing the 21CCF legislative framework, CBP seeks to improve facilitation through a tech-enabled reimagined entry system, increase supply chain visibility and enhance stakeholder coordination through expanded information-sharing, and better protect national and economic security through modernized enforcement authorities that reach new and emerging actors in the 21st century trade environment.
- CBP kicked off 21CCF with a public meeting in March 2019.
- To facilitate government and industry collaboration, CBP stood up a 21CCF Task Force working group under the COAC in 2021. The Task Force is comprised of representatives with a variety of roles and equities across the customs environment.
- Since reconvening in March 2022 under the 16th Term COAC, CBP has held a total of 15 working sessions with 21CCF Task Force members focused on 21CCF legislative discussion drafts as well as industry-identified opportunities for enhanced facilitation and other benefits for lawful trade actors.
- Throughout CBP's engagements with 21CCF Task Force members, the agency has been actively reviewing its 21CCF policy positions and legislative discussion draft language to address industry feedback where possible.
- This close engagement and dialogue has resulted in the 21CCF Task Force formally expressing trade industry support of 17 21CCF legislative discussion drafts via recommendations submitted through the COAC in June and September 2022.

**Issue:**

- While some modernization progress can be made via regulatory, policy, and technical changes, legislative updates will be needed to truly unlock the transformative reform envisioned by 21CCF.
- Any legislative changes should represent a range of stakeholder equities – including those of the Trade and Government – to the greatest extent possible.
- CBP has drafted and circulated legislative discussion drafts structured around what the agency views as the biggest impediments to trade modernization and has sought the 16th Term COAC's leadership in the following:
  - Driving consensus recommendations on how the Agency can statutorily address 21CCF challenges, whether that be through the legislative changes that CBP is proposing in its discussion drafts, or through the formulation of alternative legislative approaches.
  - Driving consensus recommendations on trade facilitation and other benefits that industry would like to see codified in law.
  - Submitting recommendations through the COAC for CBP consideration.

**Current Status:**

- Upon reaching consensus on a majority of 21CCF discussion drafts in September, CBP has shifted focus from refining 21CCF legislative discussion drafts in consultation with the 21CCF Task Force toward providing feedback and coordinating discussions with Partner Government Agencies (PGAs) on industry-identified modernization proposals.
- CBP and the 21CCF Task Force are working toward finalizing 21CCF legislative discussion drafts.

**Next Steps:**

- CBP will review the 21CCF Task Force recommendations submitted through the COAC this December.
- After the December COAC meeting, CBP will continue to refine 21CCF legislative discussion drafts with the 21CCF Task Force, explore industry-identified facilitation opportunities for potential inclusion in the 21CCF package, and continue coordinating discussions between PGAs and the Task Force on industry proposals with a PGA nexus.
- CBP will share finalized 21CCF legislative discussion drafts with Congressional stakeholders that have displayed interest in advancing these priorities on Capitol Hill.
- CBP recognizes the invaluable perspectives offered by industry and PGAs and looks forward to driving 21CCF priorities forward in partnership with the COAC.
- For more information on 21CCF, please visit the 21CCF webpage on CBP.gov: <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/21CCF>

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