

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee
Government Issue Paper
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee
De Minimis Working Group**

December 2023



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



Pub# 3477-1123

Office of Field Operations/Cargo and Conveyance Security
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee
De Minimis Working Group
December 2023

Action Required: Informational

Background:

- In the 16th term of the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC), CBP Kicked Off the new De Minimis Work Group on August 18, 2023.
- The De Minimis work group takes the place of the e-commerce task force.
- The De Minimis work group members were selected from a wide range of industry sectors in order to ensure comprehensive trade representation.
- COAC Recommendations for this term included:
 - COAC recommends that CBP and Trade explore options to identify opportunities to share data and information, including all entities across the supply chain, to address potentially illicit shipments.
 - COAC recommends that CBP and Trade identify and share best practices and warning indicators regarding unmanifested shipments arriving in a Master Carton.
 - COAC recommends that CBP immediately advance the utilization of non-intrusive inspection (NII) equipment, machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies for the interdiction of illicit shipments. Technology should be integrated in such a way to avoid slowing down supply chains while facilitating compliant trade.
 - COAC recommends that CBP evaluate its procurement procedures and processes to identify ways in which technology can be adopted, purchased, and deployed more rapidly to address changes and trends in trade, including, but not limited to, the identification of legislative exemptions to expedite procurement processes.
 - COAC recommends that CBP provide a public report regarding the advancements in technology and in such a report outline a deployment strategy.
 - COAC recommends that CBP enhance communication and education to improve compliance with parties involved in the de minimis supply chain, to include written material, seminars, and short videos meant to inform and educate. Such outreach should be industry and regionally focused to inform all parties involved of their compliance obligations regarding de minimis shipments.
 - COAC recommends CBP engage with the U.S. Postal Service to require them to provide the same data elements and adhere to the same protocols including, comparable facilities, resources, technology, and administrative enforcement actions commensurate with the private sector to address the trafficking of illegal contraband.
 - COAC recommends CBP explore options with the trade that, at point of origin, utilize technologies and programs for prescreening or preclearance.

Issue:

- The purpose of this working group is to examine the various aspects of the small package/de minimis environment to increase compliance, along with recommendations that will allow

CBP to identify and interdict high-risk shipments that may contain narcotics, contraband, or counterfeit merchandise, or merchandise that poses a risk to public safety.

- This working group will expand the efforts of the former E-Commerce Task Force by taking its recommendations for data submission requirements and operationalize processes and policies.

Current Status:

- This working group will continue to refine the 8 initial recommendations from September 2023. As well as identifying new areas of work.

Next Steps:

- Working Group will begin meeting again Nov 9th every other week.
- CBP will review recommendations and report back to the working group on updates.

Submitted by: James Moore OFO, CCS

Date: November 2023