



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

WCO Research Paper No. 8

**Compendium of
Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)
Programmes**

(July 2010)

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Abstract

Pillar Two of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade provides global standards for launching an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programme. In addition, many WCO Members who have established AEO programmes are seeking to formalize AEO mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) with other Customs administrations. This paper identifies existing AEO programmes and Customs compliance programmes. The research aims to provide Member administrations with a snapshot of current programmes, verified by the Members, and a national point of contact for Customs administrations seeking additional information.

This research entailed reviewing in-house reports and open sources, and consultations with Members. As of July 2010 the AEO Compendium includes information on 30 different programmes in 56 countries (due to the fact that 27 EU Member states have a single, uniform programme). To arrange the data systematically, all programmes are divided into three types: operational AEO programmes, AEO programmes to be launched in the nearest future, and Customs compliance programmes. While technically not AEOs, Customs compliance programmes can be regarded as an initial step towards the establishment of an AEO programme. Besides providing basic information on AEO and Customs compliance programmes, the Compendium also includes a short overview of AEO authorization procedures and benefits offered by programmes.

Key words

Authorized Economic Operator, AEO, SAFE Framework, mutual recognition

Acknowledgements

This paper was written by Mariya Polner of the WCO's Research and Strategies Unit in the Office of the Secretary General. The author is grateful to Robert Ireland, Tadashi Yasui, Jae-Young Choi, Simon Royals, Eleanor Thornton, and Henk Van Zandwijk for their suggestions.

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List of Abbreviations

AD	Andorra
AEO	Authorized Economic Operator
AMPS	Administrative Monetary Penalty System
AU	Australia
BR	Brazil
CA	Canada
CBP	(U.S.) Customs and Border Protection
CBSA	Canada Border Services Agency
CGC	Customs Golden Client
CH	Switzerland
CN	China
CSA	Customs Self Assessment Programme
CSI	Container Security Initiative
C-TPAT	Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism
EDB	Economic Development Board
EU	European Union
FAST	Free and Secure Trade
JO	Jordan
JP	Japan
KR	Korea
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MY	Malaysia
NZ	New Zealand
PIC	Partners in Compliance
PIP	Partners in Protection
RA	Risk Analysis
SAFE	WCO SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade
SACU	South Africa Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAOC	Customs System of Reliable Operators
SES	Secure Exports Scheme
SM	San Marino
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SN	Singapore
STP	Secure Trade Partnership
WCO	World Customs Organization

1. Project Objectives, Structure and Findings

Introduction

To date 161 out of 176¹ World Customs Organization (WCO) Members have signed letters of intent committing to implement the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. Pillar Two of the SAFE Framework has been of continued interest to many WCO Members as they move to implement Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programmes. Moreover, there are concerns on the compatibility of the national AEO programmes which is the most important pre-requisite to achieve mutual recognition. Thus in order to provide a continued service to our Members and given many requests received, the WCO Office of Secretary General's Research and Strategies Unit has conducted research to identify existing AEO programmes and Customs compliance programmes that are seeking to adopt measures necessary to establish an AEO programme. The objective of this research is to provide Member administrations with a snapshot of current programmes, verified by the Members, and a national point of contact for Customs administrations seeking additional information.

Research Methodology

The WCO's research team conducted its work by reviewing in-house reports and open sources, and consultations with Members. As of May 2010 the Compendium includes information on 30 different programmes in 56 countries (due to the fact that 27 EU Member states have a single, uniform programme). There is an ongoing monitoring in a number of countries that have either established or plan to establish their programmes in order to include information in the updated version of the Compendium at a later stage.

To arrange the data systematically, all programmes are divided into three types: operational AEO programmes, AEO programmes to be launched in the nearest future, and Customs compliance programmes. While technically not AEOs, Customs compliance programmes can be regarded as an initial step towards the establishment of an AEO programme.

Besides providing basic information on AEO and Customs compliance programmes, the Compendium also includes a short overview of AEO authorization procedures and benefits offered by programmes.

SAFE Framework AEOs

Pillar Two of the SAFE Framework concentrates on Customs-to-Business partnerships of WCO Members and the major idea of this cooperation is the following:

"Companies that demonstrate a verifiable willingness to enhance supply chain security will benefit. Minimizing risk in this way helps Customs in performing their security functions, and in facilitating legitimate trade."²

¹ WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, "List of Members", 03.05.2010, available at <http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/Enforcement/FOS_bil_03.pdf>

² WCO, *SAFE Framework of Standards*, June 2007, available at <http://www.wcoomd.org/files/1.%20Public%20files/PDFandDocuments/SAFE%20Framework_EN_2007_for_publication.pdf>, p. 29.

Under an AEO programme all economic operators involved in the international movement of goods may potentially apply for AEO status, thereby reducing their security risk if accredited. AEO programmes thus allow Customs to focus on high risk trade whilst facilitating legitimate trade. Dividing traders into high and low-risk is also a principle of “Compliant trader” programmes, which focus on revenue collection.

The SAFE AEO has its origins in the revised Kyoto Convention, which contains standards on “authorized persons”³, and national programmes. The SAFE AEO also shares some elements with Customs compliance programmes, which are focused on fiscal rather than security criteria. The SAFE Framework defines an AEO as:

“a party involved in the international movement of goods in whatever function that has been approved by or on behalf of a national Customs Administration as complying with WCO or equivalent supply chain security standards. AEOs include inter alia manufacturers, importers, exporters, brokers, carriers, consolidators, intermediaries, ports, airports, terminal operators, integrated operators, warehouses, distributors”⁴.

Thus, the SAFE AEO programme is intended to include all economic operators to enhance security along all points of the supply chain.

Establishing SAFE AEOs Worldwide

Since the last update in November 2009 the Asia Pacific region has had five AEO programmes in place (i.e. Japan, China, Korea, New Zealand and Singapore). On January 1, 2010, Malaysia launched its AEO programme, thus bringing the total number of functioning programmes in the region to six.

In the Americas there are currently three countries that have implemented AEO programmes: the United States⁵, Canada and Argentina⁶. Three countries (Costa Rica, Guatemala and Colombia) are planning to launch their programmes in the course of 2010.

In the European region, the EU AEO programme is the uniform programme for all 27 EU Member-States and serves as a general approach for such countries as Norway, Switzerland and Croatia. In the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries there are no AEO programmes in place, as there are only initial developments on the legislative basis providing for the acknowledgement of the AEO status. For instance, in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia and Ukraine a work on the development of the concept has been conducted at the parliamentary level.

In the Middle East there is one established AEO programme, namely the Jordanian Golden List. AEO programmes in Africa are at an early stage of development as most countries in the region are focused on revenue collection rather than national security. SADC Members are working to develop an AEO programme for the region. Namibia, Botswana and South Africa are working together on a number of issues in AEO design and implementation. The East African Community (EAC), which consists of

³ WCO, *Revised Kyoto Convention*, General Annex – Chapter 3 Guidelines on Clearance and other Customs formalities – Part 7 – Special procedures for authorized persons, available at <http://www.wcoomd.org/Kyoto_New/Content/content.html>.

⁴ WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, June 2007, p.6.

⁵ More information on the U.S. C-TPAT is available at <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/cargo_security/ctpat/>

⁶ The programme was launched in 2006 under the title of *Customs System of Reliable Operators* (SAOC).

Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are also working to develop a regional AEO programme.

In general, countries that are developing AEO programmes study the WCO SAFE Framework and the experience of countries that have established programmes. Moreover, a number of countries provide capacity building assistance at the bilateral and regional levels.

Towards AEO Programme Mutual Recognition

Mutual recognition of AEO programmes is an important objective for Customs administrations in order to better secure and facilitate global trade.⁷ In this context, it involves a country's government formally recognising the AEO programme of another country's government, and thereby granting benefits to the AEOs of that country. Initially, mutual recognition of AEO programmes has been bilateral, however there is the expectation that this will advance to the sub-regional and regional level.

As stated in the SAFE Framework, for a system of mutual recognition to work it is essential that:

- “There be an agreed set of common standards that include sufficiently robust “action” provisions for both Customs and AEOs;
- Standards are applied in a uniform manner so that one Customs administration may have confidence in the authorization of another;
- If the certification process is delegated to a designated authority by an authorizing Customs administration, there shall be an agreed upon mechanism and standards for that authority;
- Legislation to enable the implementation of a mutual recognition system is in place.”⁸

Negotiations on AEO Programme mutual recognition agreements/arrangements focus on the criteria compatibility of the different programmes. This is the great benefit of the SAFE Framework as it provides one AEO model for WCO Members to follow.

Progress is being made on the concluding of AEO MRAs. The first mutual recognition arrangement⁹ was completed between the United States and New Zealand in June 2006. As of July 2010 there are twelve mutual recognition agreements/arrangements (MRAs) that have been concluded. In addition, there are currently ten AEO programme mutual recognition negotiations ongoing (see Appendix 1).

Conclusion

Since 2001 there have been a number of initiatives taken by Member administrations to enhance the security and facilitation of the supply chain. These developments have received a common benchmarking instrument, developed by the WCO, i.e. the SAFE Framework of Standards. Out of 161 countries that are signatories to SAFE, thirteen AEO programmes have been established in 39 countries (due to the EU-27 uniform programme) and nine countries plan establishment in the nearest future (see Chapter 4 and Appendix 2). Thus, standing up AEOs and achieving mutual recognition have become an important priority for many WCO Members. That is the reason why many administrations have started working on the legislative level or cooperating with other agencies in order to prepare the background for future AEO programmes.

⁷ WCO SAFE Framework, June 2007, p.55.

⁸ *Ibid*, p. 54-55.

⁹ The U.S. prefers “arrangement” to “agreement” to clarify that MRAs are non-binding.

The risk based approach, which is the backbone of the AEO programme, gives Member administrations flexibility in the effective use of their resources. Linked to this, the trading community is generally of the view that the quality and extent of benefits is an important AEO implementation issue and that in order to justify the requisite expenses needed to obtain AEO accreditation, benefits should be more tangible than those offered by existing Customs compliance programmes. Finally, AEO mutual recognition is also of crucial importance for traders. Achieving AEO programme compatibility and mutual recognition is in essence a harmonisation and simplification of Customs procedures, which thus will contribute to the goal of trade facilitation and supply chain security.

2. AEO Programmes

2.1. Asia-Pacific

Country	Programme title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Number of operators	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)
China**	Classified Management of Enterprises	1.04.2008	Import/export	Importers, exporters, customs brokers	AA (AEO): 1577 A: 22 411 B: 587 215 C: 1280 D: 429 (03.2010)	Revision of the Rule on Categorized Management for Enterprises by Customs	To develop AEO concept and draft legislation for other players in the supply chain (port operators, freight forwarders, carriers, warehouse operators).
Japan**	AEO	03.2001 (Authorised Importers Programme; no security component), 2006 – a programme for exporters (including security) and adding the security component to the authorised importers programme, 04.2007- Framework for AEO programme	Import/export	Importers, exporters, logistic operators (carriers, forwarders, shipping companies, airlines), customs brokers, warehouse operators, manufacturers	Importers: 73, Exporters: 233 Brokers: 23 Warehouse operators: 76 Logistic operators: 1 Total number: 396 operators (21.04.2010)	Customs laws and regulations amended in 2001, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Cabinet Order, Ministerial Ordinance and Order of the DG of CTB	

Country	Programme title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Number of operators	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)
Korea**	AEO	15.04.2009	Import/export	Exporters, importers, customs brokers, freight forwarders, transporters (bonded transporters), sea/air carriers, ground handlers, warehouse operators (bonded area operators including, port terminal)	41 certificates to 26 companies (12 exporters, 12 importers, 5 freight forwarders, 3 warehouse operators, 2 transporters, 2 sea carriers, 5 customs broker). 15 out of 21 are SMEs.*** (05.2010)	Customs Act revision (01.2008); Enforcement Decree of Customs Act revision (04.02.2009); AEO Enforcement Rule (15.04.2009)	To continuously develop benefits for AEOs through research and opinion collection from the private sector. 242 AEO applicants-to-be (Dec.2010)
Malaysia	AEO	1.01.2010	Import/export	Importers, exporters	39 applications are being processed	Administrative instructions and guidelines	Malaysia-Japan mutual recognition (being studied)
New Zealand**	Secure Exports Scheme (SES)	2004	Export	Exporters NB: operates from point of pack to port of loading. As part of the scheme exporters are also responsible for their third party operators and logistics including transporters and brokers.	122 members (03.2010)	Legislation was adapted to secure goods from the point of pack to loading for export	Ongoing review of the approach to AEOs. Examining the benefits of extending MRAs to other partners.
Singapore*	Secure Trade Partnership (STP). From 1.10.2008, the STP programme comprises of two tiers, i.e. STP and STP-Plus.	25.05.2007 (STP); 1.10.2008 (STP+)	Import/export	All supply chain operators based in Singapore	44 members (04.2010) 20 STP companies 24 STP-Plus companies Comprising about 9.13% of export	No specific AEO legislation	To conclude and operationalise MRA within the next 2 years.

Country	Programme title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Number of operators	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)
					value (as of 31.12.2009)		

* Security type programme

** Customs compliance and security programme

*** Applicant is allowed to apply for business area each and KCS give respective accreditations for each business area to the same company. If they apply for 'exporter & importer' at the same time, they get two accreditations. If they apply for exporter only, they get one accreditation.

2.2. Americas

Country	Programme title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Number of operators	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)
Argentina**	Customs System of Reliable Operators (SAOC)	2006	Export	Exporters (2006) Customs brokers (2009)	30 applications; 2 rejected applications; 5 approved operators. 5 applications.	<p>External Note No. 37/2006 (the requirements and responsibilities for the exports).</p> <p>External Note No. 50/2006 (determines the office in charge of receiving the accession forms).</p> <p>General Resolution No. 2350 of 2007, issued by the Federal Administration of Public Income (AFIP) to establish the proceedings for the control of the destinations of the exports for consumption.</p> <p>External Note No. 48/2008 (a specific programme for SMEs).</p> <p>External Note No. 3/2009 (information to be registered in the Maria Computerised System (S.I.M.). The destinations indicated will go through green channel, except when the legal rules indicate otherwise). External Note No.37/2009 (requirements and responsibilities)</p>	<p>It is envisaged to enlarge the scope of the following participants in 2010:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trusted Courier (import/export) 2. ATA – Trusted Transportation Agent (import/export) 3. Trusted Importer (import)

Country	Programme title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Number of operators	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)
Canada* (3 programmes and a pilot that address a variety of AEO features)	Partners in Protection (PIP)	1995, revision in 2002 and 2008	Import/export	Importers, exporters, carriers (rail, sea, air, highway, shipping agents), customs brokers, couriers, warehouse operators, freight forwarders	<p>1447 members (04. 2010)</p> <p>Small and Medium Enterprises (i.e. 500 employees or less) represent 88% of total number of applicants.</p> <p>Commercial releases for PIP importers represent 10.41% of the national total for 2008 (national total is based on top 1000 importers) Note: of the 356 PIP importers, 307 are not included in the top 1000</p>	No specific AEO legislation	<p>Refining the Security profile (e.g. a section requiring the applicant's consent to share information may be added and a field to enter the entire 15-digit number of the Business number will be added).</p> <p>Development of a web portal to simplify the application process and manage member information (long-term project – no deadline)</p> <p>Making system changes to provide benefits to PIP members and members of mutually recognized foreign programmes.</p>
	Customs Self-Assessment (CSA) Program	2001	Import	Importers, carriers and drivers	<p>80 approved CSA Importers (20% of value for duty imported into Canada).</p> <p>796 approved CSA Carriers.</p>	Customs Act, Section 32 Accounting for and Payment of Duties and Taxes Regulations	<p>Considering expansion of programme to offshore goods. Investigating benefit improvements to increase participation.</p>

Country	Programme title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Number of operators	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)
	Free and Secure Trade (FAST)	2002	Import	Importers, carriers and drivers (highway only)	58 approved importers 674 approved carriers	n/a	Investigating benefit improvements to increase participation.
	Partners In Compliance (PIC) (Pilot)	2003	Import	Importers	10 approved importers	n/a	Complete evaluation of pilot.
USA*	Customs-Trade Partnership against Terrorism (C-TPAT)	11.2001	Import	Whole supply chain, excl. warehouse operators, but incl. ports and foreign manufacturers	9,806 members (05.2010)	Voluntary participation; covered under SAFE Port Act (budgetary commitments for C-TPAT; 2006)	Develop a similar programme for exports (Tier III importers, who are also exporters).

2.3. Europe

Country	Programme title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Number of operators	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)
EU** (27 Member-states)	AEO	1.01.2008	Import/ export	Whole supply chain	4538 requests, 2561 authorized (22.04.2010)	Voluntary participation; covered under: Council Regulation 648/2005 and Commission Regulation 1875/2006.	Adopt (2010) and implement (2013) the modernized EU Customs Code with more benefits to traders.
Norway**	AEO	03.03.2009	Import/ export	Whole supply chain	27 requests, 9 authorized (30.04.2010)	Custom Act § 3-1 (5). Customs Regulation from §3-1-20 until § 3-1-27.	Evaluation of the ongoing process (2010). Development of authorisation regarding admittance to customs simplifications (2011).
Switzerland**	AEO	01.01.2010	Import/ export	Whole supply chain	4 (pilot phase until mid 2010)	Voluntary participation; covered under National Customs Ordinance	Update national legislation (beginning of 2011)

2.4. Middle East

Country	Programme title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Number of operators	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)
Jordan*	Golden List Programme	08.2005	Import/export	Importers, exporters, carriers (rail, sea, air, highway, shipping agents), customs brokers, couriers, warehouse operators, freight forwarders.	n/a	n/a	Negotiating additional benefits with all GLP members on a one-to-one basis.

* Security type programme

** Customs compliance and security programme

*** Applicant is allowed to apply for business area each and KCS give respective accreditations for each business area to the same company. If they apply for 'exporter & importer' at the same time, they get two accreditations. If they apply for exporter only, they get one accreditation.

3. Accreditation and Benefits of AEO Programmes

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
China	<p><i>General requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being a class A operator for more than one year; 2. The total import and export volume for the previous year should be more than USD 30 mln. (USD 10 mln for enterprises of Central and Western areas) as importers and exporters; 3. To lodge more than 20,000 (5,000 for Central and Western areas) import and export declaration forms or entry and exit records as an agent in the previous year; 4. Customs validation and audit-based controls should show that the requirements in terms of customs management, the enterprise's operations and management, trade and security have been met; 5. Submit the report on operations and management and the audit report for the previous year. <p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self-assessment; 2. Submitting application; 3. Information verification both internally and externally; 4. Validation audit (on site visit); 5. Approval by the Central Customs; 6. Issuing a Certificate; 7. Periodical checking of the documents and post validation audit based on risk assessment. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing trust; 2. Assigning special officers to help companies to coordinate and resolve Customs issues; 3. Application of the lower examination rates to the export and import cargoes; 4. Submitting declarations at the place of registration; 5. Inspection and clearance procedures at ports; 6. Inspection and clearance formalities at the business site; 7. Assigning a special team to carry out on-site checks; 8. Priority to handling urgent Customs clearance formalities out of working hours and during holidays; 9. Priority in handling trade formalities, such as entering records, modifying and reporting for verification purposes; 10. Priority in handling declaration registration formalities.
Japan	<p><i>General requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance record; 2. E-system; 3. Financial integrity; 4. Compliance programme. <p>Apart from general requirements, there are special ones for each category of operator.</p> <p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prior consultation (voluntary); 2. Self-assessment; 3. Examination of documents, on-site audit=> AEO status; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Reduction of logistic costs (can submit declarations without goods being present) and lead times; 2. Less customs control and simplified customs procedures 3. AEOs can check their in-house compliance levels themselves; 4. Lump sum payments once a month for declarations; 5. No monthly fee for customs warehouses; 6. Longer permission periods for the sites of warehouse operators; 7. Reduced frequency of customs audit for warehouse operators.

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
	4. Post-authorisation audit. If there is a problem -“Administrative order for improvement”. If no change – the status is revoked.	
Korea	<p><i>General requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legal compliance; 2. Internal control; 3. Financial solvency; 4. Security management. <p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1, Submit the application (self-assessment, risk evaluation, statement on AEO management, internal AEO manager); 2. Audit (documentary; on site validation); 3. Assignment of the AEO Certificate, based on compliance: class AA (90% or more); class A (85% or more), or request for improvement measure; 4. AEO Certificate granted (valid for 3 years, renewal within 6 months before expiration) and Customs Client Coordinator assigned; 5. Self-management/post monitoring; 6. Compliance assessment (by application or selection): class adjustment (A, AA or AAA in case of more than 95% compliance; or request for improvement measures); 7. Self-management/post-monitoring. 	<p>General benefits: simplified and less physical inspection, simplified customs procedures, less financial burden, etc depending on the type of operator (importer, exporter, etc). The benefits given to the same type of operators are also differentiated according to the AEO level (A, AA, AAA) of a company.</p> <p>Simplified and less physical inspection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less physical inspection by the customs in the ex/import process 2. Inspection at a place the importer wants <p>Simplified procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less requirement of additional document submission after electronic declaration 2. Exemption from tax audit before acceptance of import declaration as well as post-clearance audit 3. Provision of convenience in customs clearance, etc at international (air)ports to the representative of an AEO 4. Post self-management of imports which are supposed to be under customs control under the Customs Act for application of a usage tariff rate, reduction or exemption of customs duty or installment duty payment <p>Less financial burden:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exemption from the obligation to offer security for import clearance; 2. Monthly payment of customs duties and taxes <p>Others: reduction of punishment for violation of customs-related laws.</p>
Malaysia	<p><i>Accreditation requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A record of 3 years’ operations in the country; 2. A history of compliance with legal and regulatory requirements of Customs; 3. Absence of tax arrears with Customs; 4. Prior security clearance from the Customs Intelligence and other relevant government agencies such as the Police, Immigration, Internal Revenue Board and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Customs clearance with minimum data and simplified process; 2. Efficient and fast clearance; 3. Simplified drawback claims based on self-accounting principles; 4. Deferred duty payments.

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
	<p>Company Commission for directors and personnel dealing with Customs clearance procedures before applying to join the national AEO programme;</p> <p>5. A proper internal control (audit trail) of all imports, exports and movement of goods;</p> <p>6. Internal security compliance programme and security features in line with the requirements of the SAFE AEO guidelines;</p> <p>7. Available facilities to pay duties via electronic funds transfer;</p> <p>8. Mandatory training on Customs procedures and approval from Malaysian Customs Administration are required for the personnel involved in Customs operations and its forwarding agents/customs brokers before applying to join the national AEO programme;</p> <p>9. Companies engaged in the trade of goods considered to be high risk, are encouraged to liaise with the Customs administration to explore possibilities of joining the national AEO programme.</p>	
New Zealand	<p>1. The scheme has pre and post validation processes that are undertaken by separate and independent groups within NZ Customs Service;</p> <p>2. Exporters in terms of their agreement are responsible for all sub contractors;</p> <p>3. Legislation allows for Customs to intervene or inspect SES export cargo from the time the Customs approved tampering indicating seal is placed on the container, at any point in the domestic supply chain regardless of whether the goods are in a Customs controlled area or not;</p> <p>4. If there is no Customs Export Delivery Order the port companies are not permitted to load container;</p> <p>5. Mandatory electronic reporting of export declarations.</p>	<p>1. Secure supply chain from point of pack to port of loading for export;</p> <p>2. Predictability of supply chain in relation to less government intervention meaning minimal disruption and less compliance costs;</p> <p>3. Compliance with security standards when contracting to supply overseas importers, committed to supply chain security;</p> <p>3. Border clearance privileges with those administrations where an MRA has been concluded;</p> <p>4. Likelihood of trade disruption minimised during a security event as supply chain security assured;</p> <p>5. Compliance with WCO standards accepted worldwide;</p> <p>6. Reduced fees for the lodgement of all export entries;</p> <p>7. Independent assessment of exporters security plans and processes;</p> <p>8. Increased company security awareness and improved processes.</p>
Singapore	<p><i>General requirements:</i> Under the STP Guidelines and Criteria, companies are required to have:</p> <p>1. A security management system;</p> <p>2. Conduct risk assessment of their business operations;</p> <p>3. Implement the security measures that address the 8 elements under the STP programme (8 elements are consistent with the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards).</p>	<p>1. Cargo less likely to be inspected;</p> <p>2. STP – Serves as “Quality Mark”, Enhanced branding (recognised as a low-risk company);</p> <p>3. Reduced inspection or expedited clearance if the certified status be also recognised by overseas countries;</p> <p>4. Designated account managers;</p> <p>5. Automatic recognition as a known consignor (KC) under the</p>

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
	<p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit application form, security profile and supporting documents; 2. Validation visit at all sites of the company conducted by Singapore Customs; 3. Certify the company if it meets the requirements under the STP Guidelines or the STP Criteria; 4. For STP status, company has to fulfil the requirements under the STP Guidelines; 5. For STP-Plus status, company has to meet all the minimum requirements in the STP Criteria. 	<p>Regulated Cargo Agent Regime (RCAR).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Trade Facilitation benefits e.g. reduced bank guarantee quantum, where applicable 7. Companies who wish to enhance their capabilities in supply chain security may get funding or assistance through training assistance schemes and development programmes offered by other government agencies such as the Economic Development Board (EDB) and SPRING Singapore.
Argentina	<p><i>General requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To comply with the rules and if appropriate, to provide a warranty; 2. To submit the application to the Customs General Directorate, together with the additional documentation proving the fulfillment of the requirements; 3. To describe the production process, the transportation, the security rules, among other things (secure supply chain); 4. Availability of the computerized management system – inventory and control. The controls are risk-based; 5. Availability of the image control system that facilitates a fluent and permanent communication with the Customs control areas. <p>Solvency criteria are lower for SMEs. The fulfillments of the tax and customs obligations are taken into account.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saving costs and time. Reduction of operational costs for the exporters; 2. Anticipation of the consignments sent to other countries; 3. Competitive difference with other operators; 4. Use of non intrusive technology for cargo control; 5. International accreditation of the supply chain; 6. Identification as Reliable Operator by other Customs Administrations; 7. Gain access to the major facilities at the port of entry in the country of destination; 8. Ensure the smooth and secure flow of goods; 9. Keep the integrity of the shipment.
Canada	Partners in Protection (PIP)	
	<p>Two types: member (full participant, benefits, info) and associate (consultations, information).</p> <p><i>Procedure:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill in security profile (including good record of compliance); 2. CBSA profile review/assessment (RA based); 3. Site validation; 3. Conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Easier to be eligible for both PIP and C-TPAT due to similar security requirements; 2. Only one site validation for both PIP and C-TPAT (might be exclusions); 3. Expedited border clearance into Canada if approved for FAST programme; 4. Enhanced reputation of being a low-risk company; 5. Companies are better positioned to achieve international recognition; 6. Improvement of the security levels; 7. Access to CBSA expertise; 8. Participation in proposed changes to PIP programme.

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
	Customs Self-Assessment (CSA) Programme	
	<p><i>Importers:</i> Two-part application; importer must meet first part of application to qualify to submit second part.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Security profile information – risk assessment of client which includes the collection of corporate structure information, key business activities and products; company policies related to risk management; and upon request, a quarterly report or their most recent audited financial statements. 2. Importers have to demonstrate that their books, records and business systems have, or will have, the necessary internal controls and procedures — including linkages, controls and audit trails to meet customs requirements. 3. Importer must provide and maintain electronic reports of their trade chain partners (vendors and consignees). <p><i>Carriers:</i> Two-part application; carrier must meet first part of application to qualify to submit second part.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carriers must provide detailed information such as a complete corporate structure and all relevant registration identifiers; details about their business specialty, clients, equipment and drivers; security measures for freight facilities and personnel policies; terminal and warehouse locations; and the location of all their divisions 2. Carriers are asked to demonstrate their internal process for an international 	<p><i>Importer Benefits:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced importer data set for imports; streamlines the process for legitimate trade and reduces costs; 2. Expedited processing and release of shipments and minimum number of cargo inspections when an approved carrier and driver are involved; increases the certainty of expedited customs processing through reduced examinations; 3. Access to CBSA expertise; compliance managers and CSA program specialists; 4. Names and contact information of other CSA participants made available (where clients have provided permission to share information); 5. Aligns importers’ financial records with CBSA requirements allowing for an account based self-assessment revenue reporting process included consolidated monthly reporting of statistical information and revenue offsets; provides for more control over importer liabilities; 6. Simplified post clearance programs for trade data reporting; more time allotted to provide detailed trade data; 7. Facilitates compliance by increasing clients’ awareness of their obligations; eligibility for self audit (Partners in Compliance); 8. Ends the need to maintain separate and costly customs processes; <p><i>Carrier Benefits:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced carrier data set for release; ends the transactional transmission of data elements for eligible shipments; 2. Expedited processing and release of shipments when an approved importer and driver registered are involved; increases the certainty of expedited customs processing and streamlines the process for legitimate trade; 3. Minimum number of cargo inspections; 4. Access to CBSA expertise; compliance managers and CSA program specialists; 5. Names and contact information of other CSA participants made available; where clients have provided permission to share

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
	<p>Canada-bound shipment; identify their current business process for all shipments, starting from the order through to billing; identify how they assign an internal control number for each order they accept; provide detailed dispatch procedure and systems; provide sample documents, descriptions and the appropriate linkages for each step in the shipping process; identify how CSA-approved importers, drivers and eligible shipments will be identified in the systems, identify how their reporting system to trace all Canada-bound shipments, including CSA-approved shipments; and identify the location of books and records.</p> <p>3. Carriers must provide and maintain electronic lists of their owner/operators.</p>	<p>information;</p> <p>6. Easier for carriers to meet their obligations and remain compliant with custom's requirements;</p> <p>7. Eliminates need to seal in-bond North American shipments and allows carrier to proceed to approved warehouse to reposition freight.</p>
Free and Secure Trade (FAST)		
	<p><i>Importers:</i></p> <p>There is no FAST application form for importers. Canadian importers are automatically approved for FAST once they become approved members of the CSA and PIP programs.</p> <p><i>Carriers:</i></p> <p>There are three options for carriers in terms of FAST Participation: For participation in the FAST program for expedited clearance into Canada only, applicants must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete carrier application; 2. Enter into an undertaking with the CBSA and agree to complete and send in the security questionnaire; and 3. Enter into a PIP memorandum of understanding (carriers). <p>For participation in the FAST program for expedited clearance into the United States only, applicants must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete carrier application and sign the C-TPAT highway carrier agreement. <p>For participation in the FAST program for expedited clearance into both Canada and the United States applicants must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete carrier application (BSF5106); 2. Enter into an undertaking with the CBSA (see Section E of BSF5106) and agree to complete and send in the security questionnaire, the PIP memorandum of understanding (carriers), and the C-TPAT highway carrier agreement. <p>In order to qualify for the streamlined FAST process, goods imported into Canada must meet these conditions:</p>	<p>All benefits as identified under the PIP and CSA programs; as well as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to dedicated lanes (where available) for faster and more efficient border clearance; 2. A streamlined process that reduces delivery times and landed costs of imports; 3. Minimal documentation required to clear the border; 4. Increased certainty at the border resulting in fewer delays; 5. A unified, ongoing partnership with the CBSA; 6. Promotion of Canadian competitiveness; and 7. Advancement of voluntary compliance and self-assessment.

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They must not be prohibited, controlled or regulated importations as set out in any act of Parliament or provincial legislation; 2. They must not be subject to the release requirements of any other government department; and 3. They must be shipped direct to Canada from the continental United States or Mexico. 	
	Partners in Compliance (PIC)	
	<p>Participants must be CSA approved.</p> <p>Interested importers were invited to participate in pilot. Application and Initial Processing includes review of the Client Profile and History. A preliminary Evaluation of Internal Controls is conducted that includes: an Inherent Risk Assessment; Internal Control Risk Assessment and a signed Memorandum of Understanding. Performance is established through monitoring: of Internal Control Tests and through Trade Compliance Program Tests.</p> <p>To sustain the partnership, participants will be expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rigorously maintain their self-testing plan; 2. Ensure that all aspects of the MOU are satisfied; 3. Continue as a member of CSA; 4. Comply with all CBSA administered laws and regulations; 5. Have update meetings with the CBSA and submit an annual notification letter and results of self-testing to the CBSA on an as agreed to basis. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A unique and exclusive partnership with the CBSA designed to ensure sustained trade program compliance; 2. A single point of contact for all trade compliance issues (PIC Senior Program Officer); 3. PIC Senior Program Officer available to provide CBSA functional guidance and advice as required by the importer, for trade program compliance assistance, risk assessments, internal controls, CBSA audit trails, data analysis, self-assessments, voluntary disclosures and other support ; 4. CBSA provides, without cost to the client, an assessment of the importer’s internal controls and business systems, highlighting any possible weak spots that may threaten the client’s ability to be compliant; 5. PIC promotes free exchange of information and best practices, which may help clients increase efficiency, effectiveness and reduce costs associated with trade program compliance; 6. PIC will result in improved client service. The nature of the partnership between CBSA and participants will evolve to one that is more consultative in nature, rather than adversarial; 7. In the case of non-compliance with CBSA trade program requirements, the CBSA will not rely as a first response on the assessment of administrative monetary penalties; 8. PIC provides greater business certainty by helping companies to achieve a high level of compliance; and 9. The uncertainty of an unexpected AMPS (Administrative Monetary Penalty System) penalty, or post release verification is eliminated.
USA	<p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certify security profiles and security information (within 90 days); 2. Validate security plans (based on RM principles); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced number of inspections and border waiting time; 2. A C-TPAT specialist to support//train/validate/communicate;

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
	<p>3. Formalise the requirements for self-policing tool and implement submission of periodic self-assessment.</p> <p>Validation within 1 year of certification and revalidation within 3 years of the initial validation.</p>	<p>3. Access to C-TPAT members through the Status Verification Interface;</p> <p>4. Self-monitoring;</p> <p>5. Reduced quantity of Compliance Measurement Examinations;</p> <p>6. Targeting benefits by receiving “credit” via the CBP targeting system;</p> <p>7. FAST lanes on the Canadian and Mexican borders;</p> <p>8. Free admission to C-TPAT training seminars;</p> <p>9. Improving old/outdated systems;</p> <p>10. Reduced risk mitigation;</p> <p>11. Reduced cargo theft and pilferage;</p> <p>12. Improved marketability and asset utilization;</p> <p>13. Understanding the end to end process, incl. knowing each entity along the supply chain;</p> <p>14. Stronger brand equity.</p>
EU	<p>3 – level horizontal system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AEO Customs simplification; 2. AEO Security and safety; 3. AEO customs simplifications/security and safety. <p><i>General requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An appropriate record of compliance; 2. A satisfactory system of managing records; 3. Where appropriate, proven financial solvency; 4. Appropriate security and safety standards for AEOs who want to benefit from safety and security facilitations. <p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In general application in the member State where the main accounts related to the Customs arrangements are held and at least part of AEO activities are conducted; 2. Thorough communication and consultation process via AEO Database; 3. Detailed security profile; 4. Compliance/solvency requirements; 5. Risk assessment; security check (WCO crit.); 6. Security self-evaluation; 7. Monitoring of AEOs after authorization to ensure highest compliance level is maintained. 8. The conditions for acceptance and rejection of the application as well as suspension and revocation of the AEO certificate are laid down in the legislation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower risk that flow of goods into and out of the EU will be stopped for examination; 2. possibility to request a specific place for customs checks; 3. Facilitations in the form of a reduced number of data to provide in the summary declarations; 4. Easier access to authorizations and permits for customs simplifications; 5. A specially appointed customs support officer; 6. Lower controls for paper-based inspections (audit) and physical inspections; 7. Advanced notice on inspections when it does not jeopardise customs controls. When necessary a physical control may be performed even though no prior notification of inspection was given; 8. Priority treatment; (9.) Mutual recognition. <p>Indirect benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced theft and losses; 2. Fewer delayed shipments; 3. Improved planning; 4. Improved employee commitment; 5. Reduced security and safety incidents; 6. Lower inspection costs of suppliers and increased cooperation;

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
		7. Reduced crime and vandalism; 8. Reduced problems through recognition of employees; 9. Improved security and communication between supply chain partners.
Norway	<p>AEOS- Security and Safety.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Registration in the Register of the Companies; 2. Prior satisfactory compliance with Customs requirements; 3. A satisfactory system for managing accounts and transport information; 4. An appropriate solvency condition; 5. Appropriate safety and security standards. <p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicaton and self-assessment; 2. Risk analysis and inspection; 3. Issue/reject the certificate; 4. Monitoring. <p>Periodical checks based on risk analysis. Validation within 5 years.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The customs authorities may, before the goods enter or leave the customs territory, inform the authorised undertaking where a consignment has been selected for closer physical inspection; 2. An authorised undertaking may give prior notifications; 3. An authorised undertaking shall be subject to fewer physical and document-based controls than other undertakings; 4. The necessary checks shall be carried out as a priority task. These checks may be carried out at a location other than the customs office involved.
Switzerland	<p><i>General requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An appropriate record of compliance; 2. A satisfactory system of managing records; 3. Proven financial solvency; 4. Appropriate security and safety standards. <p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill in an application and a self-assessment, and send the documents to Customs; 2. Customs performs a risk analysis, inspection of the applicant; 3. Customs awards/rejects the AEO status; 4. Monitoring of AEOs after authorization to ensure compliance level is maintained; <p>Customs suspends/revokes the AEO status (if needed).</p> <p>The conditions for acceptance and rejection of the application as well as suspension and revocation of the AEO certificate are laid down in the legislation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower risk that flow of goods into and out of Switzerland will be stopped for examination; 2. Possibility to request a specific place for customs checks; 3. Facilitations in the form of a reduced number of data to provide in the summary declarations; 4. Lower controls for paper-based inspections (audit) and physical inspections; 5. Advanced notice on inspections when it does not jeopardize customs controls. When necessary a physical control may be performed even though no prior notification of inspection was given; 6. Priority treatment; 7. Mutual recognition. <p>Indirect benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced theft and losses; 2. Fewer delayed shipments;

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Improved planning; 4. Improved employee commitment; 5. Reduced security and safety incidents; 6. Lower inspection costs of suppliers and increased cooperation; 7. Reduced crime and vandalism; 8. Reduced problems through recognition of employees; 9. Improved security and communication between supply chain partners.
Jordan	<p>3 categories of compliance: A (fundamental), B (important) and C (desirable). To qualify for AEO the company has to comply with A and either comply with B or render the implementation plan for it. It may comply with C to bargain additional benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self-improvement by self-checks; 2. Waiver for charges or its minimum levels; 3. Reduced number of inspections; 4. Reduced goods post-release compliance audits; 5. Pre-arrival clearance of goods; 6. Minimum levels of financial penalties (in instalments without interest). 7. One-to-one benefits taken the needs of the company; 8. Goods release before completing customs formalities; 9. Clearance during non-business hours; 10. Publishing names of members on the website.

4. AEO Programmes to be Launched**

Country (*)	Title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)	Miscellaneous
Botswana	TransKalahari Accreditation Scheme	Preliminary date - 2010. Current stage – national consultations	Import/export	Freight forwarders, bonded warehouse operators, importers, exporters, transporters.	SACU act is being reviewed but it does make provision for the implementation of the scheme. Security elements have to be incorporated as currently it reflects customs facilitation requirements and benefits.		Borrowed South African, EU and SAFE elements (for security). Since the programme is corridor based RSA, Botswana and Namibia are working on the development of the harmonised programme and will recognise operators registered in TKC Member States. The plan is to roll out the scheme to the SADC region, to ensure mutual recognition in the region. No other countries engaged as a group to negotiate mutual recognition. Once SADC becomes a Customs Union, it will be able to negotiate bilaterals.
Chile	AEO pilot	01.08.2009	Export	Exporters, including brokers, warehouse operators, shipping companies, freight forwarders, truckers and express couriers	Resolution 0849 (on creation of AEO, 02.2009)	By the end of 2009 to certify two compliant companies	Applicants must accept all conditions to qualify. Benefits: less probability of physical, documental check; advance notification for inspection.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	AEO	01.07.2009	Import/export	Importers, exporters, carriers (rail, sea, air, highway, shipping agents), customs brokers, couriers, warehouse operators,	Changes in the Customs Code of the Republic of Macedonia No.4/08 and its Implementing Regulation No. 42/09	Publishing the operational instruction in June 2009. Phase-by-phase approach: importers/exporters	

Country (*)	Title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)	Miscellaneous
				freight forwarders NB: SMEs included		customs brokers and transporters, then the rest.	
Israel	AEO	Pilot 2010	Import/export	Pilot: importers and exporters. Full implementation will extend AEO status to other members of the supply chain	Voluntary participation. Currently no specific AEO legislation		
Morocco	1) Business categorisation programme that integrates the criteria on economic performance and security in correspondence with AEO-customs simplifications *** 2) Two types of AEO programme: a) AEO - customs simplifications b) AEO – security and safety	1) In force since 2006 2) Preliminary date: 2010.	Import/export	Importers, exporters and logistics operators (carriers, transit operators, MEAD (warehouse and customs clearance area) operators and integrators)	Introduction of the AEO concept in the 2009 Finance Law, by amending the Customs and Indirect Taxes Code; The implementing regulations (a decree and two regulations of the Minister of Economy and Finance) are being adopted:	1. Development of the programme (2009-2010): - development of the procedure linked to the granting of AEO status; - development of the terms of reference by specific security criteria; - development of other facilities; 2. Mutual recognition: - cooperation with the major trading and economic partners to examine the possibility of mutual recognition; 3. AEO promotion: internal and external communication: a training programme on	1. Exchange of expertise and experiences with Morocco's trading partners. 2. Harmonisation of the audit programme-related to facilitate mutual recognition among Customs partners; 3. The initiative is supported by business and appropriate public departments.

Country (*)	Title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)	Miscellaneous
						capacity-building.	

* All countries in this section develop Customs compliance and security programmes.

** Information on the programmes of 4 countries (Andorra, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Guatemala) is not available yet.

*** The Business Categorisation programme has been in force since 2006, however the AEO programme will be launched in 2010.

5. Accreditation and Benefits of the Programmes to be Launched

Country (*)	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
Chile	<p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application: the companies must complete and deliver to Customs the Single Application Form; 2. Evaluation: the assessment is based on the information supplied by the applicant in the Single Form; 3. Certification: the certification is valid for 4 years, after which companies should apply to renewal of the certification; updating all information and backgrounds; 4. Monitoring and Reassessment: customs will evaluate if the trade operator maintains its compliance with the obligations and standards. In the event of any breach, the Customs may suspend or revoke the certification. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less probability of physical and documental checks; 2. Advanced notifications for inspection.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p><i>3 types:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AEO certificate for customs simplification, intended for economic operators who want to benefit only on the basis of customs simplification; 2. AEO security facilitations, provides facilitation of customs controls when importing and exporting goods to or from the customs territory of the Republic of Macedonia; 3. Full AEO security facilitation + customs simplifications. <p><i>General requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To comply with the general requirements from the customs authorities for proper implementation of the customs formalities; 2. Not to be a high risk entity; 3. To have efficient system for management of business evidence, and when necessary to have proper transport evidence which will be base for performing of the proper customs controls; 4. To be solvent, when necessary for the type of certificate; 5. To apply adequate security and safety standards, when necessary for the type of certificate recognition (Article 6a of the Customs Law of the Republic of Macedonia). 	<p>In general, depending on the type of certificate, operators can benefit from trade facilitation and simplifications, reduced waiting time and faster clearance of the goods.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality mark for the company; 2. Valuable investment for global companies; 3. Trade facilitations; 4. Security facilitation; 5. Reliable trading partner.
Israel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must meet compliance requirements; 2. Must meet security requirements; 3. Validation by Customs; 4. Application to Customs; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less probability of physical and document checks; 2. Priority treatment in trade recovery; 3. Trade facilitation;

Country (*)	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
	5. Customs issues AEO standing; 6. Follow-Up inspections by Customs. Customs may revoke/extend AEO status.	<i>Indirect benefits:</i> 1. Lower costs; 2. Improved marketability worldwide; 3. Reduced security and safety incidents; 4. Increased security awareness and improved process. Ensure the smooth and secure flow of goods.
Morocco	1. The company submits the following dossier : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A request using a special ad hoc formulaire ; - The company statute; - The fiscal documents for the last 3 tax years; - An audit report compliant with the referential provided by Customs. 2. Evaluation and categorisation in two classes, A or B envisaged by the programme: an ad hoc administrative commission (composed of the representatives on the central and regional levels) delivers an evaluation and takes a decision on the categorisation of the company into an A (the highest performance level) or B class. 3. Evaluation criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of the business; - Environment of the business; - Organization and infrastructure; - Activity sectors, technology employed and manufacturing processes; - Accounting and financial status; - Commercial dimension; - Supply chain security; - Social and environmental work framework; - Transparency of the business; - Reference indicators. 4. The Customs and the company conclude an agreement on the categorisation obtained, appropriate benefits granted by customs as well as obligations of the company. This agreement is valid for 3 years.	Benefits are granted according to the type of operator (businesses which import/export goods and related activity businesses (*)) and depending on their belonging to Category A or Category B. Category A is entitled for all benefits of the Category B plus an additional package of benefits. <i>A list of benefits. Importers/exporters, Category A:</i> 1. Declarations acknowledged as “In Compliance” unless randomly selected for inspection; 2. Guarantee facility, with no ceiling, based on an “undertaking to pay” by exporting companies (C3E), covering operations initiated under Economic Customs Regimes; 3. Non-suspension of guarantee facilities for operations under Economic Customs Regimes, for disputed accounts which are still active; 4. Deferred settlement of disputes, in order to avoid any interruption in the flow of goods at both importation and exportation, subject, however, to the payment of any duties and taxes payable and an undertaking by the operator to make settlement; 5. Advance clearance without prior authorization; 6. Possibility to waive immediate valuation control; 7. Possibility of admission without physical inspection of the weight declared, on the basis of a weight certificate issued by an expert body; 8. Possibility of enjoying «approved exporter» status as provided for by the Pan-Euro-Med Rules of Origin Protocols; 9. Support and assistance to help the business access «Authorized Economic Operator» status as defined in the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards (mutual recognition). <i>Importers/exporters. Categories A and B:</i> 1. Granting of guarantee facilities as appropriate, for operations

Country (*)	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
		<p>initiated under Economic Customs Regimes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Choice of domiciliation office in the framework of proximity management; 3. Clearance on operator's premises, with priority granted by the service; 4. Simplified classification of goods frequently imported or exported; 5. Monthly provisional declaration at import and export, for operations under Economic Customs Regimes; 6. Release note issued at operator's premises; 7. Transfer of compensating products in their current state, on a permanent basis, for operations initiated under the temporary admission for inward processing procedure; 8. Permanent authorization to conduct triangular trade operations; 9. Automatic granting of advance export regime; 10. Dispensation from payment of fines exacted as penalties for Class 4 offences; 11. Priority processing by Customs services of all files submitted. <p>(*) A list of benefits for the related businesses as well as a full list of benefits for the importers and exporters is available on the website of the Moroccan customs at: http://www.douane.gov.ma/ (in French)</p>

* Information on the programmes of other 5 countries (Andorra, Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Guatemala) is not available.

6. Customs Compliance Programmes

Country	Title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)	Miscellaneous
Brazil	Blue Line (Express customs clearance)	2008	Import/export/transit	Whole supply chain (a company must be involved in a minimum of 100 international trade transactions per month worth a total of at least 20 million USD)	There is specific legislation on Blue Line and AEO	Introduction of the security component in 2009	In 2009 – 15 members
El Salvador	PACE (Programa Aduanero de Cumplimiento Empresarial; Customs programme on business compliance)	04.2008 preparatory stage of the programme 12.2008 – launching the programme	Import	Importers (all sizes, including SMEs)	Inclusion of AEO notion into the Single Customs Code of Central America and other regional legislation	PACE implementation for SMEs until April 2009 (quantitative study; define potential SMEs; monitor and evaluate). Add exports into the scheme.	75 operators invited for PACE: 37 accepted; 1 refused; 11 being evaluated; 24 have not responded. Out of those that accepted 5 have been operating since 12.2008. PACE includes account administrators of companies to facilitate attention on incidents during import procedures.
Indonesia	MITA (Mitra Utama; Facilitation Service for Priority Importers)	2003	Import	Importers	Decree of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia No: 07/BC/2003 dated on 31.01.2003 concerning General Guidance on the Implementation of Customs Procedures	Expanding the programme for exporters	n/a

Country	Title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)	Miscellaneous
					on Import; Decree of Director General of Customs and Excise No: P-11/BC/2005 of 15.06.2007 concerning Priority Line; P-24/BC/2007 of 08.2007 concerning Mitra Utama		
Kenya	Authorized Economic Operator	09.2008	Import/ export	Importers, exporters, customs agents	East African Community Customs Management Act (EACCMA), 2004	Recognition of the Kenyan Authorized Economic Operators within East African Community Customs Union	n/a

Country	Title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)	Miscellaneous
Rwanda	Compliant Trader schemes of two types: 1. Gold Card Scheme (Risk based selectivity channels). 2. Pre-clearance (enables low risk importers to clear their goods before the arrival of the consignment)	Gold Card scheme – 03.2008; Pre-clearance facilitation – 09.2007.	Import	Importers	Programmes supported by national legislation. System built on importers' compliance records.	To continue developing the Compliant Trader Scheme as it is in line with the determination to facilitate international trade and encourage compliance.	n/a
Serbia	Procedure for Simplified Declaring of Goods	Test phase started 01.03.2009	Import/export	Importers, exporters	Voluntary participation Customs Law adopted (in force from 03 May 2010)	IT support expected from 1 June 2009	From 1 June 2009 till 1 April 2010 – 5 companies use simplified procedure Launching the AEO programme is envisaged in 2012
Tanzania	Compliant Traders' Scheme	07.2007	Import	Importers (54 partners; 04.2009)	A model for EACCMA	To broaden the scheme for clearing and forwarding agencies, Inclusion of other supply chain operators in long term perspective.	n/a
Thailand	Gold Card	25.011999	Import/export	Importers, exporters, trading companies	Customs Act; Customs Notification	Revised incentive schemes and	Approximately 248 operators

Country	Title	Date launched	Scope	Type of operator	Legislation	Further plans (deadlines)	Miscellaneous
					No.8/2542 (1999)	qualifications of operators (June 2010)	
	Licensed Customs Broker	26.10.2000	Import/export /transit /transshipment /re-export	Customs brokers	Customs Act; Customs Notification No.76/2552(2009)	N/A	Approximately 210 operators

7. Accreditation and Benefits of Customs Compliance Programmes

Country	Accreditation (components, process)	Benefits
Brazil	<p>General criteria :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be an enterprise with a consolidated social contract; 2. Have well established internal audit systems; 3. Adhere to the financial criteria; 4. Electronic archive of the results of audit and other paperwork. 	<p><i>For importers:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preferential storage for cargo; 2. Less customs inspections of cargo; 3. Preferential treatment of cargo, selected for inspection. <p><i>For exporters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dispatch of cargo with reduced number of customs inspections involved; 2. Preferential treatment for cargo, selected for customs inspections.
El Salvador	<p><i>General criteria:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial cap for big companies and SMEs (more or less USD 2,000,000 of trade volume per year); 2. Solvency criteria (incl. ISSS and AFP); 3. Not more than 2% of tributary discrepancies per year; 4. Conformity of documents (on VAT, rent); 5. Transparent accounting etc. <p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance to buy goods in conformity with law; 2. The process of buying; 3. Arrival of goods; 4. Calculation of tariffs and identification of obligations; 5. Submission of declaration; 6. No red/green line decision; no inspection => payment; 7. Goods arrive and are dispatched; 8. Post-clearance audit. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Predictability; 2. Concrete official to deal with big importers; 3. Special benefits for low risk companies; 4. Facilitation of processes in ports; 5. Cost reductions (no delays, inventory, capital, storage space); 6. Lowering the risk of penalties or sanctions; 7. Reduction of opportunities for corruption; 8. Special lane for PACE members; 9. Fast processing during physical checks.
Indonesia	<p><i>General requirements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importer with verified track record (good record in customs); 2. Adequate/ sufficient internal control; 3. Clear nature of business. 	<p><i>For importers:</i> less costs, faster customs clearance;</p> <p><i>For Customs:</i> decreased congestion of imported goods and decreased quantity of physical inspection.</p>
Kenya	<p><i>Accreditation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholder sensitization; 2. Fill in and submit the application form; 3. Pre-Audit at the company premises; 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possibility to use the green channel if compliant with regular audits of records; 2. Enhanced KRA/Customs information sharing ;

	<p>4. Interviews by the accreditation panel; 5. Acceptance to the AEO programme & notification of Customs regional offices; 6. Issuance of the AEO certificate.</p>	<p>3. A dedicated unit that liaises with the AEO operator for any queries on real time basis; 4. Recognition of AEO status in the region (reciprocal).</p>
<p>Serbia</p>	<p>Two types of authorizations for simplified declaring based on an accounting document, will be issued: 1. For simplified declaring of goods in import procedures; 2. For simplified declaring of goods in export procedures.</p> <p><i>Accreditation:</i> 1. Economic operator submits a request for simplified declaring (type 1 or type 2) to the responsible Customs House; 2. Request is being reviewed by the Customs House and the Headquarters. A special Working Group will examine the documentation submitted; 3. The Post-Clearance Audit Department carries out an audit of the company business and submits a written opinion and recommendation based on which the Working Group reaches a final decision; 4. The Headquarters sends its opinion to the responsible Customs House which will either issue an authorization for simplified declaring in import/export procedures or reject the request. The Customs House has to respond to the request no later than 60 days after its submission.</p>	<p>1. “Home” customs clearance; 2. Simplified procedure; 3. Customs procedure outside working hours; 4. Reduced costs; 5. Enhanced competitiveness of the authorized company.</p>

Appendix 1. Mutual Recognition Status

Concluded MRAs

Date	Country
June 2007	New Zealand - USA
May 2008	Japan - New Zealand
June 2008	Canada - USA
June 2008	Jordan - USA
June 2009	Japan - USA
July 2009	EU - Norway
July 2009	EU - Switzerland
June 2010	Canada - Japan
June 2010	Canada - Korea
June 2010	Canada - Singapore
June 2010	Korea - Singapore
June 2010	Korea - USA

MRAs being negotiated

Andorra - EU
China - EU
China-Singapore
EU - Japan
EU - San Marino
EU - USA
Korea – New Zealand

New Zealand – Singapore
Norway - Switzerland
Singapore - USA

Concluded MRAs – 12
MRAs being negotiated – 10

Appendix 2. A List of Programmes

Operational AEO Programmes

Country	Programme Title	Programme Type
Argentina	Customs System of Reliable Operators (SAOC)	Export
Canada	Partners in Protection (PIP), Customs Self-Assessment (CSA), Free and Secure Trade (FAST), Partners in Compliance (PIC)	PIP - Import/export CSA, FAST, PIC - Import
China	Classified Management of Enterprises	Import/export
EU (27 countries)	AEO	Import/export
Japan	AEO	Import/export
Jordan	Golden List	Import/export
Korea	AEO	Import/export
Malaysia	AEO	Import/export
New Zealand	Secure Exports Scheme (SES)	Export
Norway	AEO	Import/export
Singapore	Secure Trade Partnership (STP)	Import/export
Switzerland	AEO	Import/export
USA	Customs-Trade Partnership against Terrorism (C-TPAT)	Import

AEO Programmes to be launched

Country	Title	Type
Andorra*	AEO	Import/export
Botswana	Trans Kalahari Accreditation Scheme	Import/export
Chile	AEO pilot	Export
Colombia*	AEO	Export
Costa Rica*	AEO	Export
Guatemala*	AEO	Import/export
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	AEO	Import/export
Israel	AEO	Import/export
Morocco	AEO	Import/export

* Information on the programmes is not available

Customs Compliance Programmes

Country	Title	Type
Brazil	Blue Line	Import/export/transit
El Salvador	PACE	Import
Indonesia	MITA	Import
Kenya	AEO	Import/export
Rwanda	Compliant Trader Schemes (Gold Card Scheme and Pre-clearance Scheme)	Import
Serbia	Procedure for Simplified Declaring of Goods	Import/export
Tanzania	Compliant Traders' Scheme	Import
Thailand	Gold Card Licensed Customs Broker	Import/export Import/export

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