

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL¹
CONCERNING THE USE OF TRADER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN)**

(June 2018)

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL,

CONSIDERING that it is desirable to establish international standards for identifying traders in order to ensure the efficient application of trade facilitation benefits as well as control measures in cross-border supply chains,

NOTING the need for a globally unique Trader Identification Number (TIN) for the efficient implementation of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) – Mutual Recognition Arrangements/Agreements (MRAs),

DESIRING to facilitate the global exchange of Authorized Economic Operators' master data between and among Customs administrations under bilateral and plurilateral/regional MRAs,

RECOGNIZING that the WCO Data Model provides global standards for structured, harmonized, standardized and reusable sets of data definitions and electronic messages to meet the operational and legal requirements of cross-border regulatory agencies, including Customs,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the business and technical requirements to support the standardized and harmonized implementation of the growing number of AEO-MRAs through an optimal solution, and

HAVING REGARD to the varied structures of the national/regional trader identifiers being used by Customs and other Government agencies,

RECOMMENDS that Members of the Council and all members of the United Nations Organization or its specialized agencies, and Customs or Economic Unions should, after conducting impact assessments along with private sector stakeholders, as far as possible:

1. Use a separate data element 'Identification issuing country, coded' as a qualifier to national/regional trader identifiers to ensure their global uniqueness for the identification of Authorized Economic Operators in order to provide agreed facilitation benefits under Mutual Recognition Arrangements/Agreements, as set out in the WCO Data Model :
 - the 'Identification issuing country, coded' data element is based on the two-digit Alpha numeric ISO Country Code.

2. Establish a Customs-to-Customs AEO master data exchange mechanism, in an automated and real-time or periodic manner for the identification and validation of AEOs, using systemic protocols and electronic messaging standards based on :
 - the Globally Networked Customs Utility Block on AEO-MRA; and
 - the WCO INTERGOV Base Information Package.

¹ "Customs Co-operation Council" (CCC) is the official name of the World Customs Organization (WCO)

3. Enable and encourage the submission of the TINs of AEOs involved with the consignment to the Customs administration, as part of the cargo and goods declaration processes².

REQUESTS Members of the Council and members of the United Nations Organization or its specialized agencies, and Customs or Economic Unions which accept this Recommendation to notify the Secretary General of the Council of the date from which they will apply the Recommendation and of the conditions of its application. The Secretary General will transmit this information to the Customs administrations of all Members of the Council. He will also transmit it to the Customs Administrations of the Members of the United Nations Organization or its specialized agencies and to Customs or Economic Unions which have accepted this Recommendation.

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² It includes transit processes and associated declarations, based on best practices outlined in the WCO Transit Guidelines.