



The United States Council for International Business remains committed to pushing a robust trade and customs agenda in 2014. We will continue to urge for passage of Customs Reauthorization legislation in the U.S. Congress. We believe updating this legislation is critical to improving transparency and efficiency and to fostering a better relationship between trade facilitation, security and enforcement. There is also a growing need for mutual recognition globally and will continue to engage other countries to further push for an international single window initiative.

The USCIB Customs and Trade Facilitation Committee 2014 goals and priorities sets a framework for the year and presents a clear path forward for the committee towards the areas in which we can make the most impact. USCIB and our membership bring a unique view that enables us to actively engage U.S. policy makers. Our perspective allows us to actively engage and strengthen our international partnerships to advance global customs initiatives while supporting U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

2014 Priorities and goals:

Customs Reauthorization Bill:

- Continue to work with US Congress and business community to facilitate passage of a Customs Reauthorization Bill
 - USCIB continues to support CBP's efforts to increase the current values for *de minimis* and informal entry shipments. This change would promote faster border clearance for low-value shipments and allow Customs to focus on urgent priorities like ensuring product safety and protecting intellectual property. This in turn would benefit small business by reducing the burden associated with importing low value goods and international retail returns.
 - Push for language in the legislation to mandate mutual recognition of customs in all countries. A single window initiative benefits everyone and it is important to ensure trusted traders benefit from achieving trusted status. Today, one still has to apply for EU AEO even if they are C-TPAT. By creating true mutual recognition across borders, this would allow C-TPAT to be used for multiple purposes and would cut down on red tape.
 - Continue to engage with policy makers to ensure that companies benefit from their participation in trusted trader programs.
 - Work with members of the business community to provide outreach and education to Capitol Hill members about the importance of legislation.
 - Update USCIB Customs Reauthorization document and circulate to members of Congress, the Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance that reflect the recommendations for comprehensive and strong Customs legislation.

Customs and Border Protection Initiatives:

- Engage and consult with incoming CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske
 - Familiarize and educate incoming Commissioner Kerlikowske with key customs issues for the business community.
 - Become a strong voice from the business community to incoming Commissioner Kerlikowske.

- Encourage Customs and Border Protection in their one U.S. Government at the Border campaign.
 - The One U.S. Government at the Border Initiative would allow federal agencies to coordinate efforts through automation and information sharing. The One U.S. Government initiative is anticipated to be finished by 2016.
 - Encourage CBP to convene OGAs such as CPSC and the private sector in order to implement regulations in a manner that achieves regulatory objectives without being overly burdensome to business.

- Continue to support Centers of Excellence and Expertise which will create a more streamlined and uniform approach to customs. The goal of the CEEs with ACE is to create a true single window operation.
 - Support the CEEs' initiative to go paperless
 - Work with CBP to include other government agencies (OGAs) in CEEs implementation and process as part of the One US Government initiative.

- Support funding for and completion of ACE (Automated Commercial Environment)/ITDS (International Trade Data System)
 - Raise ITDS exposure in the business community and support customs as they continue to tackle a range of outstanding issues through modernization and innovation.
 - Work with CBP on single window initiatives and support accelerated government-wide implementation.

- Continue to assist Customs and Border Protection in ensuring realization of benefits to C-TPAT members and encourage other members and those in the business community to join C-TPAT and become trusted traders. Offer input to CBP on how to improve and strengthen the program. Continue to promote the trusted trader programs and push for full implementation.

- Continue to support CBP in enhancing supply chain security and to be responsive to other foreign governments seeking mutual recognition arrangements under the various AEO programs. Monitor and understand the goals and purposes of this developing program and ensure CBP receives input as appropriate that defines benefits to participants and identifies issues and concerns that CBP should address and ameliorate to achieve maximum benefits and minimum costs or adverse unintended consequences.

- Continue to push Customs to re-evaluate implementation of ITI residue issue. CBP would like to require it is with residue to be classified, entered and manifested. The ruling has been delayed but CBP continues to work toward implementation. Recently, CBP announced a pilot program whereby residue will be manifested and an electronic entry will be made off the manifest before cargo is released under the informal entry duty exemption.

World Customs Organization/ICC:

- Work with International Chamber of Commerce on implementation of Trade Facilitation agreement
 - Continue to encourage the WTO and U.S. Congress to implement all of the agreement that will ensure cheaper and faster flow of goods across borders
 - Ensure transparency during implementation
- Further educate and reach out to World Customs Organization delegates on key issues of interest for business community and work with the WCO toward global customs modernization policies.
- Represent USCIB members at the quarterly WCO Harmonized System and Review Subcommittee meetings.

APEC Global Supply Chain Framework Working Group:

- Further engage with CBP and USTR to ensure strong private sector participation in the APEC Global Supply Chain Framework Working Group. Continue to support USTR's APEC supply chain initiatives and push for greater involvement of the business community and other member countries within the APEC Virtual Customs Business Working Group in regards to resolving the 8 chokepoints.
 - Conduct outreach to private sector colleagues within APEC region to continue to advocate for establishment of *de minimis* threshold in APEC region
 - Work to ensure transparency objectives are reached through additional tools such as an interactive tariff and rules of origin database.
 - Help to continue a successful launch of the APEC Customs Virtual Working Group during this first full year of its existence. Work with China on this as they host APEC in 2014.

ATA Carnets:

- Engage CBP on improving, automating and centralizing the carnet process.
- Increase awareness of ATA Carnet among government (Administration and Hill) audiences as a trade facilitation product helping to increase U.S. exports.
- Work with WCO to centralize certificates of origin and carnet process. –delete-covered by last bullet

- Engage on perhaps getting the U.S. to join Istanbul and/or to accept the Fairs and Exhibition Carnet.—reword to –Investigate with CBP the benefits of joining the Istanbul Convention on Temporary Admission or accede to the Exhibitions and Fairs convention.
- Work with the WCO to advance practices among member states to standardize/harmonize processes related to certificates of origin and ATA carnets.
- Work with the CBP and the Administration to increase the number of countries accepting the ATA Carnet.

Issues to track:

- Continuing to watch APHIS, CBP, CPSC, TSA and other agencies as they look to increase current user fees, seek authority from Congress to increase or create user fees, and if fees are increased how they will be used by the government.
 - We will closely monitor: whether the fees will be directly used for their specific purpose.
 - The Transparency issues around cost calculations that show the relationship between the agency's costs and the revenue that comes in from the fee.