

Centers of Excellence and Expertise

Overview

May 2012



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

Background

Responding to the Call for Trade Transformation

- In direct response to calls for more uniform and efficient facilitation, and in collaboration with the Commercial Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) during FY 2011 CBP created two pilots
- The resulting pilots underwent careful concept testing and validation both within CBP and with the broader trade community

CEE and AE Pilots

- The Center of Excellence and Expertise (CEE) pilot was established in November 2010 to enhance facilitation, improve enforcement efforts, and increase CBP's knowledge of the pharmaceutical industry
- The Account Executive (AE) pilot was established to work with selected “trusted partners” in the electronics industry to facilitate trade, while ensuring continued compliance with all import requirements
- Both pilots relied on small cross-occupational core teams, with matrix staff bringing additional specialized expertise

Expanded Centers

- At the conclusion of the pilots, the AE concept was combined with the CEE to create new Centers to segment risk, facilitate trade for trusted partners and develop comprehensive enforcement strategies - making CBP's haystack smaller
- Future expansion is expected to result in nine centers that will cover the full range of imports



Current Centers

Two Centers Established in October 2011

Pharmaceuticals, Health & Chemicals Center (New York, NY)

- Covers the full spectrum of commodities within the Pharmaceutical industry, and will expand to include Chemicals and Health equipment industries

Electronics Center (Long Beach, CA)

- Covers the full spectrum of commodities within the Information Technology and Consumer Electronics industries
- ❖ Centers serve as a single point of processing for businesses enrolled in CBP's trusted shipper programs - Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and Importer Self Assessment (ISA)
- ❖ Centers will increase industry-based knowledge to segment risk, develop trade facilitation strategies, and enhance enforcement
- ❖ The Centers will also serve as a resource to the broader trade community and to CBP's U.S. government partners



Future Centers

Two New Centers to be Established by the End of FY 2012

- *Automotive & Aerospace (Detroit, MI)*
 - Will cover the full spectrum of commodities within the Automotive, Aerospace, and transportation related industries
- *Petroleum, Natural Gas & Minerals (Houston, TX)*
 - Will covers the full spectrum of commodities within the Petroleum and related industries as well as minerals

Five More Centers to be Established in FY 2013

- Nine Centers in all to cover the full spectrum of imported products
- Will be created in collaboration with the trade and key-stakeholders
- Centers represent CBP's expanded focus on "Trade in the 21st Century"



Proposed Centers



* Current Centers

* Coming Soon



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Benefits of Centers

Action	Benefits
Eliminate unnecessary transactional work for compliant importers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer cargo delays • Reduced costs • Greater predictability
Shift focus at Ports of Entry to high-risk shipments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More complex enforcement work for highly skilled CBP employees • Improved enforcement results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased import safety ➤ Increased revenue protection ➤ Reduced economic loss to IPR theft
Provide single Point of Contact for inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved relationship with CBP as small/medium-sized importers have a streamlined inquiry process for resolving concerns • Increased uniformity and transparency for the trade
Develop cross-functional expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment for in-depth learning to increase CBP expertise and therefore enforcement





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