

E-Commerce Working Group, Trade Modernization Subcommittee

Government Issue Paper



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection



DRAFT GOVERNMENT ISSUE PAPER: E-COMMERCE (EXTERNAL)

BACKGROUND

In early 2017, The Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee formed an E-Commerce Working Group (ECOM) falling under the Trade Modernization Subcommittee. The working group consists of companies representing various industries, sectors, and small business interest. The working group had an “introductory kick off call” on February 15th and will strive to identify operational challenges centered on changing business modes, increased volume of small packages, complexities for small businesses, and evolving enforcement issues. The goal of the group is to find workable solutions to these issues, creating a streamlined path forward for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), business, consumers, and the public that will strive to educate, and aid in the facilitation of international trade in this environment.

In September 2016, Office of Trade formed the E-Commerce & Small Business Branch within the IPR & E-Commerce Division. The new branch consists of four staff members located in Washington DC, and San Francisco, CA. More information about the new branch can be found at <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/basic-import-export/e-commerce>.

CURRENT STATUS:

- In 2017, The Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee formed an E-Commerce Working Group (ECOM) falling under the Trade Modernization Subcommittee. The working group had an “introductory kick off call” on February 15th.
 - The goal of the group is develop recommendations that would be presented at a public COAC meeting later in 2017.
 - The group will strive to find workable solutions to these issues, creating a streamlined path forward for CBP, business, consumers, and the public that will strive to educate, and aid in the facilitation of international trade in this environment.
 - The working group will identify operational challenges centered on changing business modes, increased volume of small packages, complexities for small businesses, and evolving enforcement issues.
- CBP is committed to working with COAC, small business, stakeholders, private industry, Congress etc. to better identify and comprehend challenges consumers and business face.
- CBP is also actively engaged at the World Customs Organization on the topic of e-commerce. The U.S. is actively participating in working groups focused on e-commerce. There are four key working e-commerce sub-working groups: trade facilitation & simplification of procedures, safety & security, revenue collection, and data analysis. CBP co-chairs the safety & security working group along with The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and The International Federation of Freight Forwarders (FIATA).

NEXT STEPS:

The working group will focus on goals identified during the February 15, 2017 kick off call. The working group is expected to present a set of recommendations to the COAC at a later meeting in 2017.

Prepared by: E-Commerce & Small Business Branch, IPR & E-Commerce Division, Office of Trade,
ecommercesmallbusinessbranch@cbp.dhs.gov

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