



Review of Accredited Operator Schemes and Impacts on Business Industry Focus Groups

Project overview

The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies is undertaking a review of the emerging 'Accredited Operator' concept which, internationally and locally, is being espoused by a number of regulatory agencies in the form of 'Authorised Economic Operator' (AEO), 'Regulated Shipper', 'Regulated Agent', 'Accredited Agent', 'Approved Exporter', and 'Registered Operator' programs which have emerged as a result of international initiatives relating to supply chain security and trade facilitation. The research will review the subject from a number of perspectives, including international initiatives, global responses, Australian Government responses, and implications for regulators and the business community as Australia moves forward to implement its own program or programs in parallel with the initiatives of its major trading partners.

The project is being funded through the Australian International Trade and Transport Industry Development Fund (AITTIDF) with the support of the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia Inc. (CBFCA), the Export Council of Australia (ECA), the Australian Federation of International Forwarders (AFIF), the Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC) and Shipping Australia Limited (SAL).

The principal objective of the project is to provide the Government with an Australian international trade and transport industry view of the Accredited Operator concept and the way in which it should be progressed in Australia in order to guard against any possible erosion of the industry's competitive position in the global marketplace. In particular, it seeks to identify options for maximising the relevance and benefit of such a scheme to the Australian business community, whilst minimising compliance costs and ensuring that Australian exporters and the international trade and transport industry are able to compete on an equal footing with their overseas competitors, particularly when exporting to countries that have similar arrangements in place.

The project is designed to develop an industry position for presentation to Government on the various forms of Accredited Operator schemes that are in place, under development, or being considered by Australian agencies, including recommendations on how they should be progressed within Australia and in terms of linkages with the programs of major trading partners.

The project seeks to identify a whole-of-government solution for a whole-of-industry outcome.

Focus Groups

Industry Focus Groups will include:

- Overview of international initiatives, standards and practices
- International developments in implementing Accredited Operator and AEO-type schemes
- Mutual recognition arrangements that are currently in place and under negotiation
- Potential impacts of Accredited Operator and AEO-type schemes on business
- Australian Government's response to date
- Future options

Focus Group Session Details

Industry Focus Groups will be facilitated by **Professor David Widdowson** and **Mr Bryce Blegen** from the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies

Brisbane	Adelaide
Venue: Customs Brokers & Forwarders Council of Australia Training Room, 43 Nariel Street, Albion, Brisbane Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 12 August 2013, 9.30am – 12.00 pmMonday 12 August 2013, 2.00pm – 4.30 pm	Venue: The Lakes Resort Hotel, 141 Brebner Drive, West Lakes, Adelaide Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Friday 16 August 2013, 9.30am - 12.00pmFriday 16 August 2013, 2.00pm – 4.30pm
Sydney	Melbourne
Venue: Phillip Room, The York Conference & Function Centre, 99 York Street, Sydney Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tuesday 13 August 2013, 9.30am – 12.00pmTuesday 13 August 2013, 2.00pm – 4.30 pmWednesday 14 August 2013, 9.30am -12.00pm	Venue: Sapphire Room, CILOMS Airport Lodge, 398 Melrose Drive, Tullamarine Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 19 Aug 2013, 9.30am - 12.00pmMonday 19 Aug 2013, 2.00pm - 4.30pmTuesday 20 Aug 2013, 9.30am to 12.00pm
Perth	Canberra
Venue: Tradewinds Hotel, 59 Canning Highway, Fremantle Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thursday 15 Aug 2013, 9.30am - 12.00pmThursday 15 Aug 2013, 1.00pm - 3.30pm	Venue: Training Room, Centre for Customs & Excise Studies, Level 2, 170 Haydon Drive, Bruce, ACT Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wednesday 21 Aug 2013, 9.30am - 12.00pmWednesday 21 Aug 2013, 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Participation in Industry Focus Groups is free of charge, but [registration is required](#). Background material will be provided at least one week prior the Focus Group sessions. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Who should attend?

The outcome of the project will potentially benefit all sectors of industry that fall within the scope of such schemes. Accordingly, participation in Focus Groups is open to all sectors of industry including, but not limited to:

- Importers and exporters
- Customs brokers, consolidators and forwarders
- Airlines and shipping companies
- Accredited Air Cargo Agents (AACAs) and Regulated Air Cargo Agents (RACAs)
- Sea ports, airports, terminal operators and other service providers

Online registration

Please register online at – <http://customscentre.com/students/alumni/aeo-industry-focus-groups-registration/>