

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)**  
**Government Issue Paper:**  
**Trade Modernization Subcommittee, E-Commerce Working Group**

August 2018



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



Trade Policy & Programs /Office of Trade  
Trade Modernization Subcommittee/E-Commerce Working Group  
August 2018

**Action Required:** Informational

**Background:**

- In early 2017, the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) formed an E-Commerce Working Group (ECOM) under the Trade Modernization Subcommittee. The working group consists of companies representing various industries, sectors, and small business interests.
- CBP released its E-Commerce Strategy to the public on March 6, 2018. The strategy is available on [CBP.gov](http://CBP.gov).
- In March 2018, the E-Commerce Working Group decided to create three “teams” to continue identifying and managing e-commerce challenges, and provide feedback on the implementation of the CBP E-Commerce Strategy. The three teams report up to the COAC E-Commerce Working Group.
- In June 2018, the working group reconvened, after a hiatus, to discuss ongoing e-commerce work, focusing on international trade standards, small business education outreach, data exchange, compliance enforcement, and understanding the changes e-commerce has on CBP processing. This work will support CBP enforcement and its ability to adapt to evolving e-commerce challenges. The work will also focus on public outreach and compliance.
- CBP continues its active engagement at the World Customs Organization (WCO) on the topic of e-commerce. The United States provided substantial comments to the World Customs Organization draft Cross Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards, and supporting documents, and attended working group meetings in April 2018, and June 2018. The U.S. worked with COAC, industry, and through the interagency process to collect feedback.
- In response to a request from Senator Wyden during Executive Assistant Commissioner (EAC) Smith’s March 6, 2018 hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, CBP provided the Committee with recommendations on the types of authorities that would help CBP address e-commerce, IPR, and import safety challenges.
- The third phase of the “The Truth Behind Counterfeits,” IPR awareness campaign is currently running at six airports from June 25 to August 18, 2018, and several online travel sites. One of the ads specifically aligns with e-commerce. See <https://www.cbp.gov/FakeGoodsRealDangers>.

**Issue:**

- The COAC E-Commerce Working Group has updated its Statement of Work, and has created three teams within the working group based around: 1) Standards and Process; 2) International Facilitation and Compliance Enforcement; and 3) International Trade Standards and Educational Outreach.
- CBP has updated its webpage on [CBP.gov](http://CBP.gov), with the goal of better interacting with stakeholders, small businesses, and new importers.
- CBP attended WCO E-Commerce working group meetings in April and June 2018, providing substantial feedback and input to the ongoing work of the Cross Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards and supporting documents.
- After the July WCO Policy meetings, the WCO agreed to extend its e-commerce working group for another year to develop a package around the WCO Cross Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards. The U.S. has taken a co-leadership role in coordinating work on definitions and technical specifications, and will participate in three additional groups of work (i.e. Flow Charts and Data Elements, E-Commerce Business Models, and Revenue Collection Models)
- CBP will continue to consult the COAC as work continues at the WCO throughout the year.

**Next Steps:**

- CBP is working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), COAC and the interagency to provide additional comments to the WCO on the ongoing cross border e-commerce framework package, and plans to attend the October 2018 WCO meetings. CBP will continue to consult the COAC to prepare for these meetings.
- The COAC E-Commerce working group is developing a series of process diagrams, process maps, and recommendations for CBP on e-commerce.
- CBP is continuing to work through the interagency process with fellow partner government agencies on the implementation of the E-Commerce Strategy, and ongoing e-commerce work.