

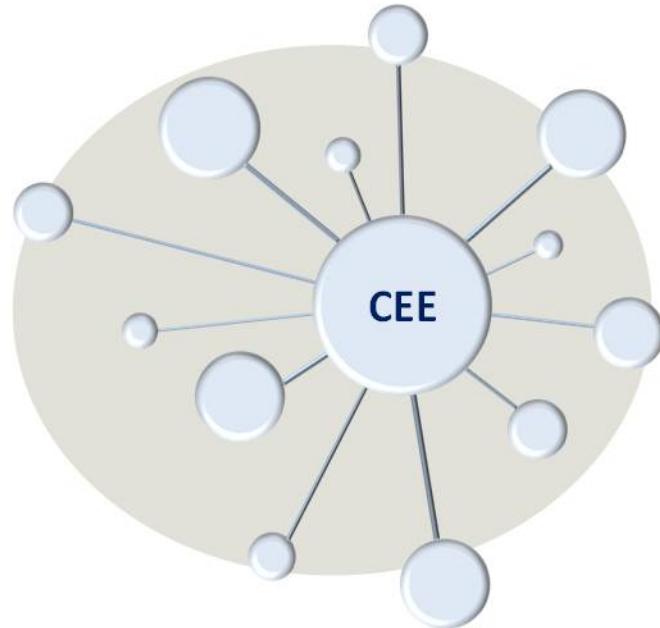
Agriculture and Prepared Products Center of Excellence and Expertise

October 2013



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

What are Centers for Excellence and Expertise?



- Virtual organizations that leverage technology to bring work to the Center
- Coordinated from a strategic location
- Aligned by key industry sectors
- Bring existing expertise together to authoritatively facilitate trade
- Provide a single point of processing for participating importers
- Serve as resource to the broader trade community and to CBP's U.S. government partners



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CEE Background

- A key component of CBP's *Trade Transformation initiative*
- Developed in collaboration with trade stakeholders to create more uniform and efficient trade facilitation
 - Commercial Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)
 - Industry Working Groups used to define Centers
- After tests on Center and Account concepts, CBP formally opened the first Centers (Electronics and Pharmaceuticals) in October 2011
- Federal Register Notice (8/28/12) proposed CEE test and requested volunteers. Test modified and expanded through 4/4/13 FRN
- As of June 2013, CBP has ten industry Centers covering all products



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How the Centers Operate



Previously

- Company imports into 60 Ports of Entry
- **60 ports** conduct entry summary reviews

Center Operations

- Company imports into 60 Ports of Entry
- **ONE Center** conducts all entry summary reviews



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Transforming the Cargo Clearance Process

Trade Benefits

- Role of the Broker**
Allows Trade to pre-certify trusted partners, utilizing them as force multipliers

Carrier files
**Importer Security
Filing & Manifest**

- ACE/Simplified Entry**
Enhances collection of security data and provides release indication earlier, saving time and money

**Importer files Entry
Entry Summary &
payment of duties**

- Centers of Excellence and Expertise**
Provides one location for post-entry processing, versus many ports of entry



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CBP's Ten Centers



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February 2013

Goals of Centers

1) Facilitate legitimate trade through effective risk segmentation

- Process imports using account management
- Expand partnerships - move more importers to trusted trader status
- Develop and implement comprehensive strategies to manage risk

2) Increase industry-based knowledge within CBP

- Advance bi-directional education to raise industry knowledge
- Engage industry groups and key stakeholders

3) Enhance enforcement and address industry risks

- Leverage industry to identify issues of mutual interest to provide CBP with targeting, enforcement, and/or intelligence information
- Coordinate enforcement efforts by industry to address unique risks



Goal 1: Facilitate Legitimate Trade

- Monitor cargo release for trusted traders and work with the ports to resolve holds
- Process post-release documentation (or its electronic equivalent) for trusted traders
- Manage and perform ISA oversight for trusted trader accounts
- Collaborate with other government agencies to develop alternatives to paper-bound requirements and/or blanket statements



Goal 2: Increase Industry Based Knowledge

- Engagement with industry stakeholders
- Training sessions with Trade on business process
- Serve as primary point of contact for trade and CBP personnel for industry-related issues
- Interact with relevant other government agencies to understand their processes and the impact on trade



■ Goal 3: Enhance Enforcement

- Focused, industry-specific targeting
- Enforcement operations focusing on areas of risk
- Intelligence referrals from the trade (Trade Intelligence)
- Field training on product identification and admissibility concerns



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Significant CEE Benefits

▪ Action	▪ Benefits
▪ Eliminate unnecessary transactional work for compliant importers	▪ Potentially fewer cargo delays ▪ Reduced importer costs ▪ Greater predictability of CBP processes
▪ Shift focus at Ports of Entry to high-risk shipments	▪ More targeted enforcement work for highly skilled CBP employees ▪ Improved enforcement results: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Increased revenue protection✓ Increased import safety✓ Reduced economic loss to IPR theft
▪ Provide single POC for inquiries	▪ Improved relationship with CBP as importers have a streamlined inquiry process for resolving concerns ▪ Increased uniformity and transparency for the trade ▪ All participants merchandise is covered by the CEE regardless of commodity/HTS
▪ Develop cross-functional expertise	▪ Environment for in-depth learning to increase CBP expertise in all CBP disciplines ▪ Improved understanding of trade practices and concerns



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Agriculture & Prepared Products (APP)

- APP industry covers Chapters 1-24 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule
- Commodities include live animals and plants; animal and plant products; and manufactured food, beverage, and tobacco products
- Over \$122 Billion in imports in FY 2012
- Top commodities: coffee, alcoholic beverages, meat, guar/thickeners, vegetable oils, bananas, soft drinks, candy, shellfish, cocoa
- Top source countries: Canada, Mexico, China, Thailand, Brazil, France
- Top entry ports: New York, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Detroit, Laredo, Buffalo, Houston, Nogales
- More than 1,100 CTPAT Importers of Record active in APP imports



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APP Center of Excellence and Expertise

- Opened on June 3, 2013
- Currently has 15 Importer Participants
- About \$9 Billion Imports/Year
- Staffed by network of CBP specialists—Import Specialists, National Account Managers, etc.
- Directed from Miami, FL



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APP Industry Issues/Risks

- Perishable, seasonal products
- Food security and safety
- Agriculture pests/diseases
- Complex regulatory structure
 - USDA, FDA, TTB, NMFS, EPA, etc.
- Uniformity in port processing



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How to Apply for the CEE

- The application process is simple—send an email to CEE@cbp.dhs.gov with business name, contact information and importer of record numbers, and identify your proposed CEE
- To be eligible for the APP CEE, the highest percentage of an applicant's entries must be within Chapters 1-24 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule
- Applicants must have an ACE portal account
- The application period is open-ended
- Please review FRN and test guidelines for further details



Questions?

Contact the Agriculture and Prepared Products Center of Excellence and Expertise at:

CEE-Agriculture@cbp.dhs.gov (email)

– or –

866-295-7624 (Option 02) (phone)



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