Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC)
Government Issue Paper: E-Commerce

February 2019

U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Action Required: Informational

Background:

- CBP has focused its e-commerce efforts on increasing the flow of targeting data; applying uniformity to existing enforcement under current statutory authorities; and engaging E-Commerce industry players to identify how e-commerce supply chains and business models differ from traditional flows.
- CBP hosted an in-person meeting of the COAC E-Commerce Working Group on October 29-30, 2018, to finalize the mapping of the E-Commerce supply chain.
- The COAC identified four supply chains through which an e-commerce product may travel on its way from a foreign point of origin to the end consumer: air (express and conventional), truck, rail, and ocean. The mapping incorporated the distinct postal processes into each mode.
- CBP moved to e-manifest in the truck mode on January 1, 2019, after issuing a CSMS to the trade community in November 2018.
- CBP is working to implement the CBP E-Commerce Strategy. The agency is focusing on implementing deliverables that are achievable by the end of fiscal year 2020.
- CBP, along with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has been playing a leadership role in the development of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Cross Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards. The working group is working to finalize an implementation package by summer 2019, and plans to participate in the next WCO e-commerce working group meeting February 18-22, 2019.

Issue:

- The COAC E-Commerce Working Group developed an e-commerce supply chain map, which the group completed in December 2018.
- CBP attended WCO E-Commerce Working Group meetings in April, June, and October 2018, providing substantial feedback, input on the ongoing work of the Cross Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards implementation package, and supporting documents.
    - CBP will continue to consult the COAC as work continues at the WCO.

Next Steps:

- CBP is working with DHS, COAC and the interagency on intersessional work on the WCO E-Commerce Framework of Standards implementation package.
    - The United States will continue to play a leadership role in the development of the implementation package ahead of the February 2019 working group meeting.
- The COAC E-Commerce Working Group will begin working on educational outreach now that the supply chain map is complete.

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