



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection



## A Global Supply Chain Security Partnership

### The World BASC Organization and U.S. Customs and Border Protection

October 14, 2020

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Deputy Commissioner Robert E. Perez tasked the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) program to lead a CBP wide effort to further strengthen the working relationship between the World BASC Organization (WBO) and CBP.

CTPAT worked diligently with the leadership of the WBO on a strategy that culminated in the *CBP-WBO Action Plan*. Under such a plan, both organizations identified nine objectives or areas of cooperation, including:

- The establishment of a Maritime Security Committee – a forum of Government and international organization representatives, as well as private sector experts, where challenges to the maritime environment are discussed so that we can better coordinate our collective approach in making sure that the global supply chain remains secured.
- The recognition of a BASC Supply Chain Partner – When a CTPAT Member has a BASC certified company as part of its supply chain, the CTPAT member only needs to document that this business partner is BASC certified in order to meet its CTPAT business partner monitoring and oversight obligations.
- CTPAT Access to the World BASC Databases – The WBO agreed to provide CBP personnel with access to both of its web-based databases – Global BASC and SIBASC.
- Sharing of intelligence between the two organizations to institutionalize information-sharing arrangements.
- The creation of a Supply Chain Security Committee – An expert group where supply chain security issues are discussed with organizations from the private sector that mirror what CTPAT does in the Public sector.

The objectives under the CBP-WBO Action Plan will yield benefits to both organizations and to the trade at large –including CTPAT Members. Today, more than ever, with limited resources in both government and business, CBP must foster a global supply chain system that is prepared for, and can withstand, evolving threats. Our approach with the WBO integrates and spurs efforts across the United States Government, as well as with the private sector and the international community.

## **BASC Background** – [www.wbasco.org](http://www.wbasco.org)

The *Business Anti-Smuggling Coalition* was created as a program in 1996 by legacy U. S. Customs Service. Teams of Customs enforcement officers travelled regularly to Latin America to promote the program and engage the business community in combating drugs destined for the United States. In 2002, after the creation of the CTPAT program, U.S. Customs passed the “BASC” baton to the private sector where it was formally established as a nonprofit organization named the World BASC Organization (WBO).

Today, the WBO has grown to 3,500 member companies, with 25 chapters in 11 countries, protecting all sectors of the international supply chain, including exporters, importers, customs brokers, highway carriers, warehouse operators, logistics providers, and terminal operators. Considering that a typical BASC company has an average of 5 business partners, almost 20,000 companies in Latin America, Mexico and the Caribbean are committed to international supply chain security standards, with almost 3 million workers and their families similarly sensitized to the threats of narcotics, contraband and illicit commerce. Over 60% of the BASC companies are small to medium size enterprises, proving that having the resources of a large company is not a prerequisite for a successful supply chain security program.

BASC is also the leading private sector organization in the Americas driving the adoption of supply chain security practices and standards, playing a major role in helping protect the U.S. border and international supply chain by maintaining the safety and security of shipments destined to the U.S. from traditionally high-risk regions. BASC standards and audit process were harmonized in 2008 with CTPAT security criteria and validations. This was done to ensure that CTPAT companies with overseas BASC business partners could count on knowing that a BASC certification was based on the same security criteria as those of CTPAT.

A BASC certification requires a company to implement a comprehensive management security system, focusing on two pillars: (a) integrity, ethics and reputation; and (b) physical and procedural controls over the operations and business partners, throughout its supply chain. The BASC management system also requires the implementation of the BASC security Norms and Standards. Most importantly, the BASC certification requires a mandatory annual audit conducted by BASC certified auditors, assuring that a BASC certification reflects current compliance with the BASC Norm and Standards. In order to become BASC certified, a prospective company not only has to undergo an intensive audit by certified BASC auditors, but must also first undergo a thorough vetting process, including an investigation of the integrity, ethics and reputation of its owners and principals.

BASC is a founding member of the World Customs Organization’s (WCO) Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG). Through this membership, BASC is able to take the concerns of business and customs administrations in the Americas directly to the WCO senior management in Brussels. BASC is also a standing member of the trade facilitation committees in Colombia and the Dominican Republic, which were established to advise trade ministers and customs administrations on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). BASC has mutual cooperation agreements with customs administrations, NGOs, and international organizations throughout the world, including the World Customs Organization, the International Chamber of Commerce, and the United Nations (UNODC).