Border Security Program: C-TPAT

The Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) is a government-to-business initiative designed to implement anti-terrorist cargo security measures. C-TPAT fosters enhanced security across the entire supply chain, creating a primary relationship between U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and importers and compelling close cooperation among supply chain members, including brokers, warehouse operators, carriers, foreign manufacturers and suppliers.

Importers wishing to become C-TPAT partners with CBP will undergo government scrutiny of the details of their business practices and operations in every aspect of the supply chain. While one of the objectives of C-TPAT is to reduce clearance delays due to cargo inspections and accelerate clearance when inspections do occur, it is advisable to identify and correct any operations issues prior to initiating the application process.

The ST&R Border Security Team can provide an objective third-party assessment of a company’s C-TPAT readiness. We conduct mock C-TPAT reviews and risk assessments that result in recommendations for concrete solutions that can be implemented to fix any holes in supply chain security or import processes. Even where clients pass the mock review with no discernible deficiencies, we often identify opportunities for increased efficiencies and cost savings that would otherwise have gone untapped.

Once a client decides to move forward with C-TPAT membership, we can assist with every phase of the process, from completing the initial memorandum of understanding to completing the supply chain profile questionnaire and on through the CBP validation process.

Our global security and compliance assistance capabilities do not end at U.S. borders. ST&R professionals can assist importers with meeting government security initiatives in any country and at any port in the world.

Publications

Certified Cargo Screening Program Expands to Canine Teams (November 28, 2018)

CTPAT Among Topics of Maritime Security Committee Meeting (October 22, 2018)
Updated Security Criteria for CTPAT to be Phased in Starting in 2019 (September 20, 2018)
Air Cargo Security Program Seen as Aid for E-Commerce Made Permanent (June 12, 2018)
Trusted Trader Program Could be Operational This Year (February 6, 2018)
Air Cargo from Five Middle Eastern Countries Gets Tougher Screening (January 25, 2018)
CTPAT Reauthorization Bill Would Revise Eligibility, Benefits, Requirements (October 12, 2017)
CTPAT Minimum Security Criteria to be Strengthened, Expanded (September 28, 2017)
CBP Needs to Improve Enforcement, Assess Effectiveness of ISF Requirements, GAO Says (July 25, 2017)
Reliable Data Needed to Better Monitor C-TPAT Benefits and Validations, GAO Says (February 10, 2017)
Fast Lane for Cargo Containers Now Available at Ten Seaports (September 23, 2016)
Report Sees Progress, Challenges in Implementing Maritime Cargo Security Programs (July 11, 2016)
Mutual Recognition of Supply Chain Security Programs with Dominican Republic (December 10, 2015)
State Dept. Expands Efforts to Advance Maritime Security Overseas (October 27, 2015)
U.S., Mexico Formalize Cargo Pre-Inspection Program (October 22, 2015)
Trusted Trader Program Application Still Being Developed by CBP (September 2, 2015)
C-TPAT Open for Exporters; Webinar to Examine Benefits and Requirements (July 15, 2015)
C-TPAT Export Applications Now Expected to Go Live by June 1 (May 26, 2015)
CBP Delays Next Phase of C-TPAT Portal 2.0, Including Exporter Application (May 20, 2015)
C-TPAT Membership Opens to Exporters on May 17 (May 14, 2015)
Next Phase of C-TPAT Portal 2.0 to be Deployed May 16 (May 13, 2015)
San Diego Port Police to Help Improve Border Security in Latin America and Asia (May 11, 2015)
Brazilian Customs Offers Three Levels of AEO Status (January 21, 2015)
Late Importer Security Filing Submissions to Require Bonds as of Jan. 10 (December 15, 2014)
C-TPAT Portal Upgrade to be Deployed Dec. 8 (December 8, 2014)
U.S. Signs Mutual Recognition Agreement on Supply Chain Programs with Mexico (October 21, 2014)
Importer Security Filing Enforcement Toughened at Los Angeles/Long Beach (October 2, 2014)
CBP Moving Ahead with C-TPAT for Exporters (September 16, 2014)
Air Cargo Pilot Extended for Another Year, Reopened to New Participants (July 29, 2014)
Canada Adds Self-Assessment Program Benefit, Extends Participation to U.S. Firms (July 23, 2014)
CBP Announces Test of Trusted Trader Program Unifying C-TPAT and ISA (June 16, 2014)
Eligibility Requirements, Security Criteria for C-TPAT for Exporters May be Released Soon (June 9, 2014)
Business Groups Support Delay of 100% Scanning Requirement, Call for Repeal (June 4, 2014)
100% Cargo Container Scanning Requirement Waived Again (June 2, 2014)
Trusted Trader Program Pilot Announcement Expected Soon (May 30, 2014)
EU, China Sign Mutual Recognition Agreement on Trusted Trader Programs (May 21, 2014)
Jordan to Participate in Container Security Initiative (March 21, 2014)
CBP Warns of Drug Smugglers Targeting Cargo at Ecuador Port (February 21, 2014)
Foreign Ports Urged to Share Information on Cargo-Related Crime with Companies (February 18, 2014)