CBP Issues Final Rule Implementing APEC Business Travel Card Program

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Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg Trade Report

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has adopted as final, with two changes, interim amendments to the Department of Homeland Security regulations establishing the U.S. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Card Program. The voluntary U.S. ABTC Program provides qualified U.S. business travelers engaged in business in the APEC region or U.S. government officials actively engaged in APEC business the ability to access fast-track immigration lanes at participating airports in foreign APEC economies.

To participate in the program, an individual must be an existing member in good standing of, or be approved for membership in, an eligible CBP trusted traveler program during the U.S. ABTC application process. The application process requires the applicant to self-certify that he or she is a bona fide business person who is engaged in the trade of goods, the provision of services or the conduct of investment activities, or is a U.S. government official actively engaged in APEC business. The applicant must also provide a signature to CBP at a trusted traveler enrollment center.

The final rule is effective Dec. 23.

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