U.S. Customs and Border Protection
“Customs” or “CPB”

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ABOUT CUSTOMS

Customs is the U.S. federal agency of the Department of Homeland Security that enforces regulations on goods and people at the border. The agency is charged with regulating international trade at ports of entry, collecting import duties, and, ultimately, preventing illegal goods and terrorists from entering the United States.

Ports of Entry

CBP manages the 329 ports of entry in the United States and 70 office locations in over 40 countries. Their Office of Field Operations is charged with scanning imports and exports for illegal goods, contaminations and pathogens, and making sure products meet required safety standards set by other organizations like the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, they enforce intellectual property rights of the United States by confiscating counterfeit and pirated goods before they enter the country. The CPB has on file all trademarks and copyrights as registered by a company (To register your trademark/copyright, contact hqiprbranch@dhs.gov). As part of its enforcement duties, CBP also monitors who enters and leaves the United States at ports of entry, screening travelers and checking what they bring in and out of the country.

Trusted Traveler programs are available for those that frequently visit or ship to the United States. The programs expedite customs processing for low-risk travelers and can be found at http://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs.

Foreign Initiatives
As the trade industry continues to grow and branch out, CBP strives to keep customs and border regulations up to date by collaborating with other countries’ custom agencies on best practices. CBP is the lead U.S. agency in the World Customs Organization, which is the lead international agency on good customs governance practices. In the organization, CBP represents the U.S. position on custom issues and best practices, and contributes to dialogues on global standards, simplification and harmonization of customs procedures, enforcement and compliance activities, trade supply chain security, capacity building, and other topics.

In addition, CBP maintains relationships with other countries’ customs agencies in order to further its foreign initiatives in trade such as global border security, anti-terrorism, non-proliferation, export controls, immigration, and capacity building. CPB is well known for its short-term and long-term training and technical assistance to Customs and Borders Security Agencies around the world. They offer approximately one hundred training programs to foreign participants annually, and cover a wide range of operational topics including weapons of mass destructions, anti-narcotics, and commercial operations. The intent of the programs is to build capacity of foreign customs and security agencies to further facilitate the security and ease of trade, travel, and commercial needs.

ACE System and Single Window

As trade networks have continued to develop, governments are pursuing a single window option for countries’ customs organizations. The single window is a trade facilitation method whereby exporters and importers can submit required documents from different government agencies to one location or entity, thus saving time and resources. The United States is in the process of implementing a single window through their Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). ACE is a new electronic interface that will be fully incorporated and mandatory for filing documentation by the end of 2016. ACE is also able to collect national trade information and automatically deduct duties and fees from traders, including those that are required to follow a trade remedy.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Locate a Port: http://www.cbp.gov/contact/ports

Allows businesses and governments to locate the different ports of entry in the United States in an interactive map.

Basic Importing and Exporting: http://www.cbp.gov/trade/basic-import-export
Provides information and advice on navigating the customs process for importing and exporting in the United States.

**For Foreign Governments**

*ACE and a Single Window Option:* [http://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated](http://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated)

Supplies information about the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) and justification for single window options in the United States and for other countries.


Displays information regarding the World Customs Organization and its recommendations and international agreements relating to international border and customs issues.

*Training Programs:* [http://www.cbp.gov/border-security/international-initiatives/international-training-assistance](http://www.cbp.gov/border-security/international-initiatives/international-training-assistance)

CBP offers several training programs for international customs organizations and foreign parties, information which is available on the website.

**For Foreign and Domestic Businesses**

*ACE Reference Guides:*

- [http://www.cbp.gov/trade/entry-summary/ace](http://www.cbp.gov/trade/entry-summary/ace)

The following links provide step-by-step instructions and procedural information on how to use ACE for U.S. trade.