



MSMEs and AEOs

WTO MSME Informal Working Group

MSMEs

WTO Informal
Working Group

May 2024

Emmanuelle Ganne
Emmanuelle.ganne@wto.org

The Informal Working Group on MSMEs

Launched in December 2017 (WT/MIN(17)/58/Rev.1)

88 members in 2017 – 101 now

Objective: To support MSMEs in international trade

- Through soft law (non-binding recommendations)
- Exchange of information & good practices (internally, with other organizations)
- Through existing WTO bodies, where relevant
- Through concrete tools
- Incubator of new ideas

MSME Package (INF/MSME/3)

6 texts on:



Transparency



Access to information



Trade facilitation



MSMEs' inclusion in
regulatory
development



Market information



Access to finance and
cross-border
payments

→ Endorsed on 11 December 2020

Recommendation on trade facilitation and MSMEs (Annex 3)

- Calls for full implementation of the TFA
- Recommends engagement with MSMEs when conducting consultations in accordance with the TFA
- Encourages exchange of TFA implementation experiences involving MSMEs
- Endeavours to identify opportunities to adopt digital solutions to speed up customs procedures

Compendium

of AEO programs with a
MSME dimension

Focus on AEO programs

Compilation of AEO Programs with a MSME
dimension (INF/MSME/W/47/Rev.1)

- Prepared by the WTO Secretariat, with inputs from WCO members
- Issued in February 2024
- Objective:
 - Promote experience sharing
 - Help members develop more MSME-friendly AEO programs

Compendium

of AEO programs with a MSME dimension

- Presentation of the WCO SAFE Framework
- 27 national programs with a MSME dimension listed

Argentina	Japan
Australia	Jordan
Brazil	Korea, Republic of
Canada	New Zealand
China	Philippines
Dominican Republic	Switzerland
European Union	Thailand
Fiji	Türkiye
France	Uganda
Hong Kong, China	Ukraine
India	United Kingdom
Indonesia	United States of America
Jamaica	Uruguay
	Zambia

- Regional initiatives: APEC
- Other initiatives: Global Alliance on Trade Facilitation

Key findings

Good practices

Tailored criteria	Tiered systems	Outreach & capacity building
Argentina Indonesia Japan Korea Philippines	Dominican Republic India Hong Kong, China	Australia Brazil China Fiji France New Zealand Philippines US Zambia

Financial support	Continuous feedback	Collaboration
Korea	India	Australia Brazil EU Hong Kong, China Japan



Trade **4** MSMEs

A one-stop platform linking to practical tools

- For MSMEs (guides, Global Trade Helpdesk)
- MSME policymakers (guides, MSME-related studies and regulatory practices)

Your gateway to trade information

Guides and resources for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), policymakers, and researchers on topics of international trade.



Businesses & Entrepreneurs

Find a concise overview of key aspects of international trade for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises with our Businesses & Entrepreneurs Guides.

[Get started with guides for Businesses →](#)

Policymakers & Researchers

Find a concise overview of key aspects of trade and MSME-related policymaking with our dedicated library of Policymakers & Researchers Guides.

[Get started with guides for Policymakers →](#)

Search Resource Library

Whether you are a beginner or an expert, you can use our filters below to find useful guides and resources to enhance your knowledge of international trade.



Authorized Economic Operators

What are authorized economic operators (AEOs)? AEOs are businesses and other entities certified by customs authorities to trade goods across borders under international supply chain.

Policymakers: Border Procedures & Trade Facilitation



AEO Implementation and Validation Guidance 2021

This comprehensive guidance document explains the implementation and validation of the authorized economic operator (AEO) programme. It provides templates, questionnaires...

Source: World Customs Organization, 2021

Policymakers: Goods, Services, Border Procedures & Trade Facilitation



Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)

This is a guide on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Businesses; Policymakers: Goods, Services, Border Procedures & Trade Facilitation



Integrating SMEs in Authorized Economic Operator Certification: Improving SME Participation in APEC Secure Trade

This report focuses on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Certification and Mutual Recognition Agreements in APEC economies, looking at what SMEs must undertake to obtain AEO.

Source: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Policymakers: Goods, Services, Border Procedures & Trade Facilitation, Asia & Middle East



Integrating SMEs in Authorized Economic Operator Certification: Improving SME Participation in APEC Secure Trade

The results provided in this study are expected to complement APEC's previous research on AEO-related issues and aims to demonstrate Members' on-the-ground experience formalizing and...

Source: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), 2021

Policymakers: Goods, Services, Border Procedures & Trade Facilitation, Asia & Middle East



Authorised Economic Operator (eLearning module)

This eLearning module provides the principles of Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) and the related procedures as defined by the Union Customs Code (UCC).

Source: Customs and Taxation Academy

Policymakers: Goods, Border Procedures & Trade Facilitation

To find out more:

MSME Group
[Webpage](#)

WTO Small
Business and
Trade [Webpage](#)

Trade4MSMEs
[Platform](#)

The [Trade](#)
[Game](#)

Thank you for your attention!

