

#### MSMEs and AEOs





WTO Informal Working Group

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# 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

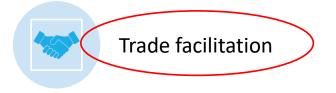
- Through soft law (non-binding recommendations)
- Exchange of information & good practices (internally, with other organizations)
- > Through existing WTO bodies, where relevant
- Through concrete tools
- Incubator of new ideas

# MSME Package (INF/MSME/3)

6 texts on:









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 New Zealand Canada China **Philippines** Switzerland Dominican Republic **European Union Thailand** Fiji Türkiye Uganda France Hong Kong, China Ukraine India **United Kingdom United States of America** Indonesia **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.



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#### **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 & Middl...



#### 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 & Middl...



#### 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 <u>Trade</u> Game

Thank you for your attention!