



## U.S. Customs Service

610 S. Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60607-4523

Pipeline 02-08  
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**TO : Customhouse Brokers, Importers and Others Concerned**

**SUBJECT: Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)**

C-TPAT is a joint initiative between government and business designed to protect the security of cargo entering the United States while improving the flow of trade. C-TPAT offers businesses an opportunity to play an active role in the war against terrorism. Currently, C-TPAT is open to all importers and carriers. Eventually, C-TPAT membership will be made available to all sectors of the supply chain, including brokers, warehouse operators and manufacturers.

C-TPAT requires importers to take steps to assess, evolve and communicate new practices that ensure tighter security of cargo and enhanced security throughout the entire supply chain. In return, their goods and conveyances will receive expedited processing into the United States.

By participating in C-TPAT, companies will ensure a more secure supply chain for their employees, suppliers, and customers. Besides giving their cargo faster processing at the border, Customs will offer additional potential benefits to C-TPAT members, including:

- ? Dedicated commercial lanes where infrastructure permits
- ? Assigned Customs point of contact (account manager)
- ? Eligibility for account-based processes (bimonthly/monthly payments)
- ? Reduced inspections

Businesses must apply to participate in C-TPAT. Participants will sign an agreement that commits them to the following actions:

- ? Conduct a comprehensive self-assessment of supply chain security using the C-TPAT security guidelines jointly developed by Customs and the trade community.
- ? Submit a supply chain security questionnaire to Customs.
- ? Develop and implement a program to enhance security throughout the supply chain in accordance with C-TPAT guidelines.
- ? Communicate C-TPAT guidelines to other companies in the supply chain and work toward building the guidelines into relationships with these companies.

TRADITION



SERVICE



HONOR

C-TPAT benefits can begin once Customs has completed a company risk assessment encompassing both security and trade compliance. Highly compliant Importers who have already been evaluated for risk will be accepted into C-TPAT upon submission of a signed C-TPAT agreement.

For more information about applying to participate in C-TPAT, visit the Customs website at [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov) and click on Importing & Exporting information or contact Supervisory Import Specialist Jerry Baxter at 312.983.1144.

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