

What is AEO?

Authorised Economic Operator, AEO, is the EU's response to the World Customs Organisations (WCO) SAFE program to enhance security within the international supply chain. The aim is to provide businesses with an internationally recognised quality kite mark which indicates that their position in the international supply chain is a secure one and that their procedures are compliant and efficient.

Who may apply for AEO?

Any company or organisation who own or move goods through the international supply chain can apply to become an AEO. An AEO accredited business will have met certain criteria and be seen to be compliant by customs.

AEO Certificates

There are three types of certificate

AEO/C Customs simplifications – issued to businesses which fulfil the criteria of customs compliance, financial solvency and appropriate record keeping standards.

AEO/S Security and Safety – issued to businesses which maintain appropriate security and safety standards and fulfil the criteria of customs compliance, financial solvency and appropriate record keeping standards.

AEO/F Combination of C and S i.e. full accreditation

What are the benefits of becoming an AEO

- Fast tracking of goods through point of entry
- For customs simplifications (e.g. CFSP, LCP) AEO/ C or F status or meeting the AEO/C criteria has been a requirement since Jan 2009.
- Holding AEO S/F will have mutual recognition with other customs authorities around the globe.
- On the introduction of the *UCC companies will gain benefits from guarantee waivers, single authorisations, self assessment and centralised clearance plus other benefits.
- Competitive advantage over non AEO's

Other indirect benefits may include an increased awareness throughout the business with regard to security, possible reduction in insurance premiums, improved customer confidence.

*UCC (Union Customs Code) is the revised (and modernised) EU legislation which lays out virtually all the customs rules and regulations governing imports/exports to/from the EU

What does the application involve?

- showing an appropriate record of compliance
- a satisfactory system of managing commercial , and where appropriate, transport records, which allows appropriate customs controls
- proven financial solvency and
- appropriate security and safety standards (when you are applying for a security and safety AEO certificate), including access control systems and risk and threat analysis

Do you require help through the process?

Questions to ask yourself may be

- Is this authorisation right for me?
- Do we have the time to work through the necessary processes?
- Do we have the staff to manage the process?
- Do we have the internal knowledge required to complete the application?

Please contact us on aeo@changeconsultancy.biz or 01249-659494 to arrange a free consultation