



Certification of companies as Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) in El Salvador

Deloitte Tax News

During the current month of November, the General Customs Office certified the first two Salvadoran companies under the Authorized Economic Operator Program, OEA-SV per its Spanish acronym.

An AEO can be defined as the actor involved in the logistics chain, who performs an activity within such chain, applying best practices, assessing and managing risks, with security measures that minimize the possibility of their cargos being contaminated by any type of acts that endanger their reputation, image, and classification as a low-risk customer before the Customs Authority and other authorities that exercise controls in foreign trade operations.

The Accreditation of the AEO represents a seal of approval of the foreign trade operator, which results in benefits for the actors of the logistics chain, since the operations performed by these operators are guaranteed in the pursuit of decreasing the risks involved in foreign trade.

What are the benefits and advantages of being certified as an AEO?

1. Priority attention in customs operations executed before the Customs Office of the Republic through windows specifically designated for OEA-SV.
2. Reduction in the percentage of immediate verification of goods.
3. Priority service and mobilization of cargo at border crossings.
4. Priority in the application of customs controls to shipments, in the event they are selected for inspection and are placed at the disposal of the customs authority.
5. Reduction in subsequent verifications performed on the AEO.
6. Right to receive personalized attention, through an AEO Specialized Technician, with respect to its customs operations.
7. Priority in receiving specialized training on customs procedures and security measures for means of transportation, facilities and handling of goods, provided by the Customs Service or by international entities that support the General Customs Office in the implementation and maintenance of the Program.
8. An AEO recognized in El Salvador will at the same time be recognized in all the countries of the world that use this same Program or other compatible programs, and thus the benefits acquired are not restricted by territorial limitations.

In order to obtain these benefits, Companies certified as AEOs will have to comply with the security standards and commercial best practices established by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The Customs Administration has certain objectives in mind in implementing this AEO framework, among them, mitigating risks in order to have greater security, managing electronic information in advance for both entries and departures, as well as goods in transit, inspecting departures of high-risk goods, and performing inspections appropriately and in a non-intrusive manner, thus respecting the user's goods.

Finally, there is an aim to establish a partnership between the public and private sectors, through the vote of confidence that the Customs Authorities will grant to the parties mentioned above that comply with the minimum security requirements and follow the respective best practices. This will translate into simpler processes for the benefit of the parties that acquire the distinction of being an AEO. All of the above is being done in order to facilitate trade in the country, thus improving the business environment and resulting in the reduction of costs of the private sector, together with the maximization of resources of the public sector.

The complete news item published by the Treasury Department can be found at the following link: <http://www7.mh.gob.sv/pmh/es/Novedades/10080-El-Salvador-entrega-primeras-certificaciones-OEA.html>

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