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(IS 15700:2005 Certified)

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, (CHENNAI-VIII)**  
**CUSTOM HOUSE, NO.60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI-600 001**  
**EMAIL: aeocuschennai@gmail.com**

**F.No.S.Misc.38/2018-AEO**

Dated: 25-03-2018

Dear Importer/Exporter,

As a part of the ease of doing business, the Government of India, the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has rolled out the AEO (AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR) programme. It is a trade facilitation move wherein benefits are extended to the entities who have demonstrated strong internal control systems and willingness to comply with the laws administered by the CBEC.

AEO is a programme under the aegis of the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate Global Trade. It enables Indian Customs to enhance and streamline cargo security through close cooperation with the principle stakeholders of the international supply chain viz. importers, exporters, logistics providers, custodians or terminal operators, custom brokers and warehouse operators. The CBEC Circular No: 33/2016-Cus dated 22.07.2016 and Circular No: 3/2018-Cus dated 17.01.2018 provides the statutory framework for the AEO programme.

There are multiple tiers of certification in the new AEO Programme. For importers and exporters there are three tiers ( T1,T2 & T3) providing varying levels of benefits and for logistics providers, custodians or terminal operators, custom brokers and warehouse operators there is only one tier ( LO).

**MAJOR BENEFITS TO IMPORTERS/EXPORTERS:**

1. Direct Port Delivery of imports to ensure just-in-time inventory management by manufacturers – clearance from wharf to warehouse for AEO T1, T2 and T3 status holders.
2. Direct Port Entry for factory stuffed containers meant for export by AEOs for AEO T1, T2 and T3 status holders
3. Provision of Deferred Payment of duties.
4. Benefits of Mutual Recognition Agreements with other Country Customs Administrations.
5. Faster disbursal of drawback amount.

6. Fast tracking of refunds and adjudications.

7. Self-certified copies of FTA / PTA origin related or any other certificates required for clearance would be accepted

8. Requests based on-site inspection /examination

9. Paperless declarations with no supporting documents

10. Recognition by Partner Government Agencies and other Stakeholders as part of this programme.

**MAJOR BENEFITS TO LOGISTIC SERVICE PROVIDERS, CUSTODIANS/TERMINAL OPERATORS, CUSTOMS BROKERS & WAREHOUSE OPERATORS:**

1. Waiver of Bank Guarantees.

2. Extension of approval for custodians under regulation 10(2) of the 'Handling of cargo in Customs Area Regulation 2009"for period of 10 years.

3. Waiver from fee for renewal of license under sub regulation (2) of regulation 11 of CBLR, 2013.

4. Faster approval for new warehouses within 7 days of submission of complete documents.

5. Waiver of security for obtaining extension in warehousing period.

6. And many more facilities in terms of Board's Circular No. 33/2016-Cus dated 22.07.2016 and Circular No: 3/2018-Cus dated 17.01.2018

In view of the above, you may like to be an AEO. For that, please submit an application for AEO status to avail the benefits as per Board's Circular No: 33/2016 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 and 3/2018 dated 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018.

In case of any queries, you may contact Dr P.G.Prabakaran Asst Commissioner of Customs (AEO)/Client Relationship Manager (CRM) at 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Annexure Block, No: 60, Rajaji Salai, Custom House, Chennai-600 001 or Email to: [aeocuschennai@gmail.com](mailto:aeocuschennai@gmail.com) or Call : 044-25254384. Any difficulties may be brought to the notice of Smt. K. Komathi, Nodal Officer, Joint Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Customs, Phone No. 044-25254550.

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on Chennai Customs website  
i.e ChennaiCustoms.gov.in*

Yours Sincerely,

*[Signature]* 5/3/18

(Dr. ANIL K. NIGAM)  
Commissioner of Customs  
Commissionerate -VIII  
Chennai Customs