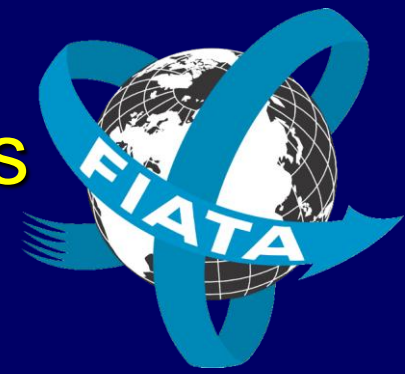


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Mutual Recognition

US. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the European Union (EU) announced the mutual recognition decision between the C-TPAT program and the EU's Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program was fully implemented on January 31.

This agreement provides reciprocal benefits to C-TPAT members when exporting to EU member states. The aim of Phase I of the agreement is to link the various international industry partnership programs, to create a unified and sustainable security posture to securing and facilitate global cargo trade.



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The concept of "mutual recognition" i.e. C-TPAT and AEO by the EU and TSA, is that their respective validated members would receive reciprocal preferential treatment on customs clearance. However what appears to be the case is that while the EU would appear set to give C-TPAT companies the benefits, the USA and not so keen to reciprocate this.

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4 March 2013: The EU and Canada agreed to cooperate more closely to ensure the security of their supply chains, building on the existing customs cooperation agreement with Canada and extends it to include supply chain security. With closer cooperation this will ensure a high level of security while facilitating legitimate trade between the EU and Canada; leading eventually to mutual recognition of risk management techniques, risk standards, and security controls. This covers the EU Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) and Canada's Partners in Protection (PIP).



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Apart from AEO and C-TPAT mutual recognition TSA have also entered this path. There are currently 33 countries whose country programs are approved by TSA. These are all 27 EU Member States + Switzerland; Israel; Australia; New Zealand; Japan; Korea (two weeks ago)

For 2013 TSA have 13 countries identified for possible recognition including South Africa where TSA was recently in January 2013



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