



वित्त मंत्रालय / Ministry of Finance  
राजस्व विभाग / Department of Revenue  
सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त कार्यालय / Office of the Commissioner of Customs  
कस्टम हाउस, नयी हारबर एस्टेट / Custom House, New Harbour Estate  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 33 /2016**

Sub: Promotion of AEO Scheme to increase facilitation level - Reg.

\* \* \* \* \*

Attention of Trade and Custom House Brokers is invited to the Board's Circular No. 33/2016 Cus dated 22.07.2016 with reference to CBEC Circulars no.42/2005 dated 24.11.2005 as amended regarding the ACP scheme and circular no 28/2012-Customs dated 16.11.2012 regarding AEO programme.

2. The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has decided to merge the two facilitation schemes namely ACP and AEO into a combined three-tier AEO programme, and also enhance the scope of these programmes so as to provide further benefits to the entities who have demonstrated strong internal control system and willingness to comply with the laws administered by the Central Board of Excise and Customs. The prominent features of the new programme are:

- i. Inclusion of Direct Port Delivery of imports to ensure just-in-time inventory management by manufacturers - clearance from wharf to warehouse
- ii. Inclusion of Direct Port Entry for factory stuffed containers meant for export by AEOs
- iii. Special focus on small and medium scale entities - any entity handling 25 import or export documents annually can become part of this programme
- iv. Provision of Deferred Payment of duties - delinking duty payment and Customs clearance
- v. Mutual Recognition Agreements with other Customs Administrations
- vi. Faster disbursal of drawback amount
- vii. Fast tracking of refunds and adjudications
- viii. Extension of facilitation to exports in addition to imports
- viii. Self-certified copies of FTA / PTA origin related or any other certificates required for clearance would be accepted
- ix. Request based on-site inspection /examination
- x. Paperless declarations with no supporting documents

- xi. Recognition by Partner Government Agencies and other Stakeholders as part of this programme
3. The details of the revised AEO Programme with application and its annexures can be seen at the CBEC website [www.cbec.gov.in/Circular](http://www.cbec.gov.in/Circular) No.33/2016-Cus dated 22.7.2016.
4. Board Circulars. No. 42/2005 dated 24.11.2005 as amended regarding the ACP scheme and No. 28/2012-Customs dated 16.11.2012 regarding AEO programme stand superseded with issue of this circular.
5. All the entities already certified under AEO Programme pursuant to Circular No 37/2011-Cus., dated 23.08.2011 and No. 28/2012-Customs dated 16.11.2012 would now be accorded the status of AEO-T2 or AEO-LO, as the case may be, and shall be entitled to benefits as per this circular subject to their adherence to prescribed standards and guidelines issued in this regard.
6. The entities already accorded the ACP status pursuant to Circular No. 42/2005 dated 24.11.2005 as amended are being granted one time opportunity for transition to the AEO status in terms of this circular. They are required to submit their applications in terms of this circular within 90 days. In the meantime, they are being provisionally granted the status of AEO-T1 till a decision is taken on their application.
7. The attention of all the trade partners and stake holders of Customs are invited to avail the benefit of AEO programme and in case of any difficulty, they may contact Shri P. Venugopal, Assistant Commissioner/Customs Policy (Contact No 0461-2352633-129).
8. Difficulties, if any, may be brought to the notice of this Office immediately.

*Agreed*  
24/8/16  
(MAYANK KUMAR)  
COMMISSIONER

C.No.VIII/48/06/2016-Cus.Pol.(PF)  
Customs Policy Section,  
Custom House, Tuticorin.

Date: 24.08.2016

To  
As per Mailing List I, II and III.  
Notice Board  
EDI Section, Custom House, Tuticorin for uploading in the website

Copy submitted to: The Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Trichy.