

Authorised Economic Operator (AEO)



Governments and industries worldwide face many challenges in securing international supply chains from terrorism, organized crime and other threats.

The European Union's AEO programme goal is to increase security in international supply chains through risk management and customs compliance. Operators established in the EU, that meet specific qualifying criteria, may apply for and receive AEO certification. The key driver in the future will be expectations from the business community to work with AEO partners.

What is an AEO?

An economic operator is a person who, in the course of their business, is involved in activities covered by customs legislation. An authorised economic operator (AEO) is defined as an economic operator who is reliable throughout the European Community in the context of their customs related operations, and therefore, is entitled to enjoy benefits throughout the Community.

Who can apply?

Anyone who is involved in the international supply chain that carries out customs related activities in the EU can apply for AEO status. This includes manufacturers, warehouse keepers, customs agents, exporters, buyers, freight forwarders, carriers and importers.

There are three types of certificates available to economic operators:

- > Customs simplifications (AEOC)
- > Security and safety (AEOS)
- > Customs simplifications / security and safety (AEOF)

Each type of AEO offers different benefits and set up costs; however, in most cases businesses will be interested in obtaining AEOF because of the benefits listed below:

Customs related benefits	AEOC	AEOS	AEOF
Easier access to customs simplifications	✓		✓
Security and safety control facilitation		✓	✓
- Possibility for prior notification		✓	
- Reduced data set for summary declarations		✓	
Fewer physical and documentary controls	✓	✓	✓
Priority treatment if controlled	✓	✓	✓
Possibility to request a specific place for controls	✓	✓	✓



Other benefits

Additional benefits businesses may enjoy include:

- > Reduced theft and losses
- > Improved visibility and control of the supply chain
- > Improved security and communication between supply chain partners
- > Lower insurance premiums
- > Commercial recognition within the business community as a certified partner

Why apply for AEO?

The decision to apply for AEO certification is a commercial one that you need to make once you have assessed the benefits for your company against the costs of applying for, and maintaining, the AEO standard.

Contact

Is your business interested in gaining AEO status?

Contact us at aeo@cotecna.com to discuss how AEO relates to your business; and if appropriate, a project plan for implementing AEO. Or visit our website at www.cotecna.com/aeo.

Please turn page over to see the type of services Cotecna offers.

AEO Services

The following briefly describes the various services we offer that can be tailored to your business:

AEO Needs Analysis / Rapid Review

Analyze your supply chain in order to determine eligibility and type of certification that best suits your business. The Rapid Review is a high level focussed analysis of the current state of compliance with AEO requirements.

Audits / Assessments

Perform blank audits against AEO requirements to identify and test compliance of all elements of the supply chain affected by AEO. Perform risk/vulnerability assessments to evaluate current risk areas that may be exploited by terrorism, organized crime or other threats to your business.

The outcome of the various audits and assessments is a documented self assessment that includes a gap analysis and recommended action to meet AEO requirements.

AEO Requirements Implementation

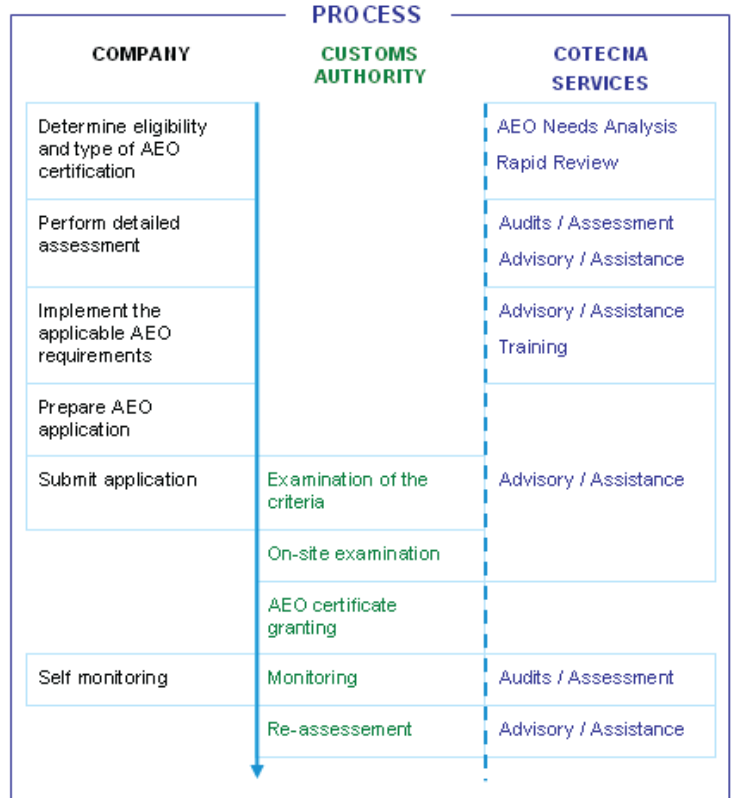
Provide expert advice and assistance in implementing controls and procedures enabling you to submit an AEO application. Design and deliver a tailor-made security awareness programme for your business. Additionally, Cotecna can provide customized training services to enable you to achieve and maintain AEO requirements.

AEO Application Preparation

Assist in preparing the submission of the AEO application, and in incorporating the details of the self assessment.

Self Monitoring

Conduct periodic reviews of your operation against the accreditation criteria by performing compliance audits, and reviewing of your business partners' operations.



Benefits of choosing Cotecna

- > A leading inspection, verification and certification company. A global footprint with a network of 4,000 people in close to 100 countries around the world
- > More than 30 years of implementing & operating Customs compliance programmes around the world
- > Solid security, supply chain, and trade expertise
- > AEO implementation assistance is cost effective
- > Selected by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to perform Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) third party validation for first pilot program to be conducted in China
- > Member of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA) security committee
- > Ability to offer other add-on services including: C-TPAT implementation assistance, scanner services, process improvement, security training, third party audits, and a wide range of inspection and conformity services
- > Awareness, internal auditor, or lead auditor training courses for AEO, C-TPAT, ISO 28000, ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000, ISO 27000 and Accredited ISO 9001 certification body.