



Summary

As part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) efforts to protect U.S. economic competitiveness, CBP is transforming trade processing to find efficiencies for both CBP and the Trade community. Leading the way in these efforts are CBP's Centers of Excellence and Expertise (Centers), which provides "one-stop processing" for the Trade community using a team of industry-focused CBP experts located virtually nationwide.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, CBP established four industry-specific Centers: the Electronics Center in Long Beach, CA; the Pharmaceutical, Health & Chemicals Center in New York City; Automotive & Aerospace Center in Detroit; and the Petroleum, Natural Gas & Minerals Center in Houston.

The Centers are virtual organizations that bring all of CBP's trade expertise to bear on a single industry in a strategic location. The Centers serve as a single point of processing for participating importers. While revenue collection continues to be carried out at the ports of entries, the required import documents are routed to the appropriate Center. The Centers perform validation activities, post entry amendment/post entry correction reviews, and review prior disclosure for participating importers.

The Centers continue CBP efforts to increase uniformity of practices across ports of entry, facilitate the timely resolution of trade compliance issues nationwide, and further strengthen critical agency knowledge on key industry practices.

Participants

Currently, Center participants are businesses enrolled in CBP's trusted shipper programs: the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and Importer Self-Assessment (ISA).

In August 2012, CBP issued a *Federal Register* Notice seeking volunteers from the importing community to participate in the current Centers. This is a part of CBP's effort to further the operational development of the Centers and allow for broad decision-making authority by the Centers. CBP will continue accepting applications and will notify volunteer participants in several phases as the Centers continue to grow and develop.

Future Centers

In FY 2013 CBP will establish six more Centers, bringing the total number to ten.

The ten Centers will be:

- Agriculture & Prepared Products*
- Apparel, Footwear, and Textiles*
- Automotive & Aerospace
- Base Metals
- Consumer Products & Mass Merchandising*
- Electronics
- Industrial & Manufacturing Materials
- Machinery
- Petroleum, Natural Gas & Minerals
- Pharmaceutical, Health & Chemicals

* Denotes Future Centers

Working Groups

CBP continues its bi-directional education efforts with the trading community by creating the Centers of Excellence and Expertise Broker Working Group. The Broker Working Group was established in November 2012 and is comprised of key industry stakeholders from the brokerage community and will provide critical input on Center processes and its impact on importers and brokers. This input is important as CBP continues its further development of the Centers.

Additional Information

Additional information, including contact information for individual Centers and the latest news regarding Centers of Excellence and Expertise can be found at: <http://1.usa.gov/JSy3Fe>

