

Centers of Excellence and Expertise



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Center Mission Statement

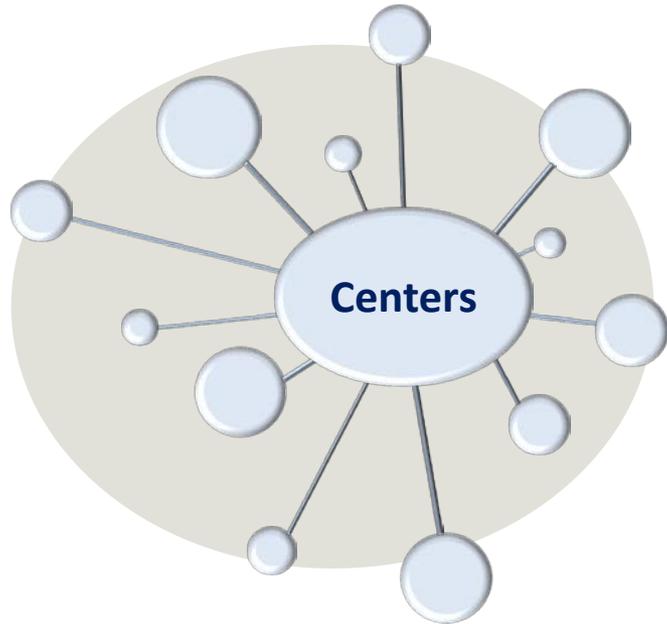
The Centers of Excellence and Expertise strengthen America's economic competitiveness and security through integrated industry knowledge and expertise, innovative trade processing procedures and trend analysis, global collaboration, and strategic and impactful trade enforcement actions.

The Centers:

- Strategically process post-release trade activities within industry sectors on a national basis
- Focus on industry-specific efficiencies to facilitate trade, reduce transaction costs, and increase uniformity and consistency
- Serve as an industry-focused resource for the public and private sectors
- Assess trade risks on an account and industry-wide basis to increase compliance with import laws, protect the American public and economy, and enhance the effectiveness of enforcement efforts



What are Centers of Excellence and Expertise?



- **Industry-focused** and **account-based** points of virtual processing for post-release trade activities
- Aligned by 10 key industry sectors in strategic locations
- Consolidate existing expertise and build industry-specific education to authoritatively facilitate trade
- Provide national overview of accounts (importers) to identify areas for further facilitation or corrective action
- Serve as a resource to the broader trade community and to CBP's U.S. government partners

Centers will be integrated into every facet of the trade process; from pre-arrival to final liquidation



Why Centers?

- Objective:
 - Focus on industry-specific issues
 - Facilitation
 - Reduce transaction costs
 - Increase compliance
 - Increase uniformity of treatment
- Past processing:
 - Company imports into 60 ports of entry
 - 60 ports conduct entry summary reviews



- Centers
 - Company imports into 60 ports of entry
 - Single Center conducts entry summary reviews



Goals of Centers

1. Increase industry-based knowledge within CBP
 - Advance cross-education to raise industry knowledge
 - Engage industry groups and key stakeholders
 - Identify industry trends and commercial threats
2. Facilitate legitimate trade through effective risk segmentation
 - Utilize account based methods to process trade
 - Expand partnerships - move more importers to trusted trader status
 - Develop and implement comprehensive strategies to manage risk
3. Enhance enforcement and address industry risks
 - Leverage industry to identify issues of mutual interest to provide CBP with targeting, enforcement, and/or intelligence information
 - Coordinate enforcement efforts by industry to address unique risks



What are the benefits?

Action	Benefits
Eliminates unnecessary duplicative work from compliant imports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fewer cargo delays• Reduced costs• Greater predictability
Ports of Entry focus shifts to high-risk shipments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More complex enforcement work• Improved enforcement results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increased import safety○ Increased revenue protection○ Reduced economic loss to IPR theft
Centralized office for trade inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved relationship with CBP as small/medium-sized importers have a streamlined inquiry process for resolving concerns• Increased uniformity and transparency for the trade
Cross-functional expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment for in-depth learning to increase CBP expertise and therefore enforcement



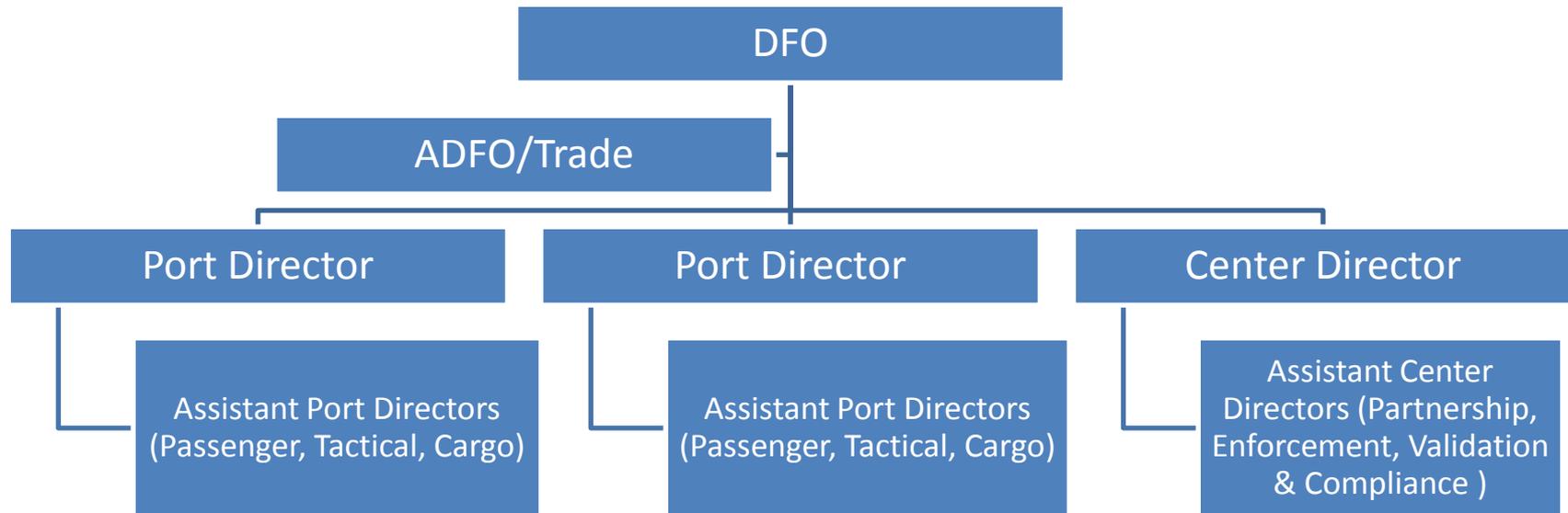
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Center Organizational Structure

- Center Director
 - Authority for nationwide trade processing
 - Equal to a Port Director and reports to the Director, Field Operations
- Assistant Center Director
 - Manages a division within a Center
 - Equal to an Assistant Port Director



Center Divisions

- Partnership Division
 - Contains multidisciplinary teams that process the trusted trader accounts and engage in cross-education efforts with the industry community.
- Validation and Compliance Division
 - Includes multiple Import Specialist teams and separate entry teams that process importers within the industry and applying risk segmentation schemes.
- Enforcement Division
 - Multidisciplinary teams that handle enforcement issues for the industry and develop strategic operations (i.e. trademark, patent, health and safety, ADCVD)



Center Staff

- Centers will be staffed with existing trade and revenue positions
 - Assistant Center Directors – Transitioned to Centers
 - Import Specialists- Transitioned to Centers
 - Entry Specialists- allocation framework and options for transition being developed
- Employees will remain in their physical location at the Ports of Entry and transition to a Center
 - Center chain of command
 - Multi-disciplinary teams across the nation



Regulatory Authorities

- Delegation Order
 - Issued September 11, 2014
 - Dual authority of Port Director and Center Director
 - Executed for specific regulatory provisions
 - Provides Center Directors with full authority to make trade decisions
- 19 CFR amendments will provide for full regulatory authority



Operational Status

- 10 Centers are fully operational as of March 23, 2016
- Permanent Staffing
 - Assistant Center Directors
 - National Account Managers
 - Import Specialists
- Trade Functionality
 - Post-release trade activities are routed to appropriate Center
 - Tariff level routing until true account based processing at importer level is achieved
- Center staff support all trade work
 - Generated by the Center
 - Generated by the local port where the employee is physically located



Operational Authorities: End State

- Centers will be integrated into every facet of the trade process
- Pre-arrival, arrival, and cargo release
 - Centers: trade admissibility risks and enforcement
 - Port Directors: arrival and manifest processing; enforcement for narcotics, terrorism, agriculture, and other security risks; release authority
- Centers perform all post-release trade processing
 - Entry summary review/verification, liquidation, protest, reconciliation, drawback, liquidated damage and penalty initiation, commercial fraud case development, collaboration with HSI, analysis of trade to determine risk and target areas of threat
 - Policy analysis
- Centers provide subject-matter expertise to HQ policymakers on decisions affecting the Centers' industry; ensure policy is executed uniformly



Trade Processes

Ports

- Cargo Release
- Manifest Processing
- Cargo Holds and Examinations
- Cargo Movement (permit to transfer, inbond)
- Export Compliance
- Seizures and Penalties
- Agriculture Exams
- Bonded Movements, Bonded Warehouses, and Foreign Trade Zones
- Narcotics, Anti-Terrorism and Security Risks
- Importer Security Filing Review

Centers

- Trade Admissibility Advice
- Entry Summary Reviews
- Free Trade Agreement Eligibility Review
- ADCVD
- Protests and Petitions
- Appraisals
- Post Summary Correction and Post Entry Adjustment
- CEAR Process
- Prior Disclosure Review
- Reconciliation
- Internal Advice
- Quota Processing





Center Mailbox

CEE@cbp.dhs.gov



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Mission Statement

To safeguard America's borders thereby protecting the public from dangerous people and materials while enhancing the Nation's global economic competitiveness by enabling legitimate trade and travel.



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