

## **What is Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)?**

A direct result of 9/11, The Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) certification program was launched in November 2001 as a voluntary program offered by US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) with the goals of improving security and facilitation. With only seven major importers certifying at the beginning, the C-TPAT program has grown to over 4,700 participants today. This includes critical players in the global supply chain such as US Importers, customs brokers, terminal operators, carriers and foreign manufacturers. These organizations receive the benefits of reduced inspections, increased compliance and amplified security throughout their supply chains, while working with CBP to protect all supply chains from concealment of terrorist weapons, including weapons of mass destruction.

### **C-TPAT Benefits**

Becoming a C-TPAT certified organization has many benefits. While the process to become C-TPAT certified is time-consuming, the benefits can far outweigh the costs of certification. Those companies that receive C-TPAT certification can expect:

- Increased ability to predict lead times
- Decreased disruptions in the supply chain
- Reduced wait times for carriers at the US borders
- Improved security for the workforce
- Reduced cargo theft

### **C-TPAT Mutual Recognition**

Mutual recognition is the accepting of common security parameters and the acceptance of that certification by various countries. C-TPAT and certain foreign programs have established a set of standard security requirements which allows one business partnership program to recognize the validation findings of the other program. Currently C-TPAT has signed mutual recognitions with:

1. **New Zealand Customs Service - Secure Export Scheme (SES)**
2. **Canada Border Services Agency - Partners in Protection(PIP)**
3. **Jordan Customs Department - Golden List Program (GLP)**
4. **Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau - Authorised Economic Operator (AEO)**

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is currently working with the Customs Administrations of Korea, Singapore and the European Union to reach mutual recognition between their respective programs and C-TPAT.