CUSTOMS TRADE PARTNERSHIP AGAINST TERRORISM (CTPAT) 101

WHAT IS CTPAT?

CTPAT is a public-private partnership program within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that strengthens international supply chains by inviting companies to voluntarily implement stringent security measures in exchange for benefits from the government, such as fewer cargo inspections and expedited processing at CBP ports of entry (POEs).

Since its inception in 2001, CTPAT has grown to 10,000+ industry partners, including importers, highway carriers, sea carriers, foreign manufacturers, consolidators, licensed U.S. customs brokers, and others. These partners agree to uphold CTPAT's security standards—called the Minimum Security Criteria (MSC)—in their supply chains. By doing this, they in turn strengthen the overall global supply chain.

HOW DOES CTPAT WORK?



Supply Chain Security Specialists (SCSSs)

CTPAT SCSSs have previously held CBP positions, including as CBP officers, import specialists, and agriculture specialists. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, SCSSs completed 2,407 validations in 61 countries.

Applicant Vetted

A company applies to join CTPAT and documents their compliance with MSC requirements, which encompass physical, personnel, agricultural, and other trade security threats. An SCSS then vets the company, utilizing CBP and other external systems.

Partner Certified

The company's application and Security Profile is approved by an SCSS, deeming them a certified partner and conditionally entitling them to the program's 35+ benefits.

Partner Validated

Within one year, an SCSS physically visits the partner to validate that they are meeting the MSC. Every four years they revalidate the partner so they remain in good standing.

HOW DO PARTNERS BENEFIT?

CTPAT partners benefit from expedited processing of cargo at POEs, resulting in shorter wait times, reduced fuel consumption, lower labor costs, and other significant savings.

CTPAT partners receive 35+ trade benefits

- **Reduced Number of CBP Cargo Examinations** — Fewer cargo examinations save time and money for partners at POEs.
- **Access to Free & Secure Trade (FAST) Lanes** — Exclusive trusted trade lanes at land border POEs expedite wait times for faster processing of partner cargo.
- **Access to Advanced Qualified Unlading Approval (AQUA) Lanes** — At participating POEs, CBP can allow vessels of CTPAT sea carrier partners to expedite vessel unlading, resulting in cost savings from expedited unlading wait times. CTPAT is exploring ways to expand the benefit to additional POEs.
- **Reciprocal Benefits in Other Countries** — Reciprocal benefits in the form of reduced inspections are offered to partners at the POEs of 44 countries that are covered by CTPAT's 18 mutual recognition arrangements.
- **Access to Local SCSSs** — Locally-based staff have deep knowledge of border operations and regional trade threats, enabling geographically-tailored risk mitigation tactics for partners' unique security challenges.

If you have questions about the CTPAT program, including its seven field offices, visit cbp.gov for additional information.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: CTPAT FIELD OFFICES

WHAT ARE CTPAT FIELD OFFICES?

The CTPAT field offices are where the program's SCSSs are based, and they serve as resources for the program's partners. The field offices provide on-the-ground supply chain security expertise to partners in their areas of responsibility (AORs) and internationally, and conduct outreach and trainings to their local trade communities

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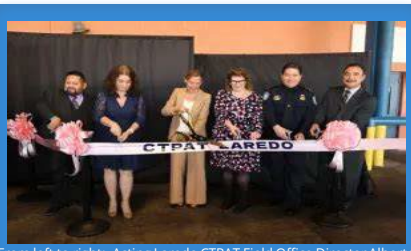
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CTPAT is excited to announce that in 2024 the program opened its 7th field office in Laredo, Texas, with a primary focus on Southern Border trade. The Laredo Field Office validates and communicates with partners in the Laredo AOR and interior areas of the United States and Mexico.



From left to right: Acting Laredo CTPAT Field Office Director Alberto Santoyo, CTPAT Director Dina Amato, Acting OFO Executive Assistant Commissioner Diane Sabatino, Cargo and Conveyance Security Executive Director Susan Thomas, Port Director of Laredo Alberto Flores, and Assistant Director of Field Operations Armando Taboada.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE TRADE?

FOCUSED ATTENTION ON PARTNERS
With more balanced partner validations across CTPAT field offices, the program can enhance its focus on providing its partners program benefits and access to staff in their respective AORs.

ACCESSIBLE, LOCAL EXPERTISE
Locally-based field staff have a knowledge of land border operations and expertise in trade threats presenting at the Southern Border. This enables CTPAT to build strong relationships with partners in the Laredo area and offers them geographic-specific risk mitigation tactics for their supply chains.

EXPANDED ACCESS TO APPLY TO CTPAT
Collaboration with the Department of State can enable prospective partners in areas in the interior of Mexico, that were previously ineligible for CTPAT, to apply to the program.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CBP?

RISK SEGMENTATION
CTPAT allows for risk segmentation *before* threats appear at the border, enabling CBP employees to focus on higher-risk, non-CTPAT shipments and process greater cargo volumes at Port Laredo.

A SAFER SOUTHERN BORDER
The Laredo CTPAT Field Office AOR extends from El Paso, Texas to Brownsville, Texas and includes the Port of Laredo, the busiest inland port along the U.S.-Mexico Border and which sees 69 percent of trade companies encountered as CTPAT-certified. A bigger footprint on the Southern Border allows the program to conduct more outreach and training and help the AOR's trade community improve its supply chain security.

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