



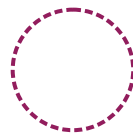
These relaxations/benefits shall be applicable only to an applicant who has a valid MSME certificate from the line-Ministry. The approved MSME must ensure their continuous MSME status during the validity of its AEO certification, if granted.

AEO T2 certification comes with the added advantage of access to MRA benefits. This means that an AEO certified company in India will also be recognized as AEOs by Customs Authorities in countries with which India has signed an MRA and will get similar benefits at foreign ports.

Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) is the international face and connecting link of the domestic AEO Programme of various countries. Mutual Recognition of AEOs is a key element of the WCO SAFE Framework to strengthen end-to-end security of supply chains and to multiply benefits for traders at a global level. By mutual recognition of AEOs two Customs administrations agree to recognize the AEO authorization issued under the other countries programme and provide reciprocal benefits to AEOs of the other countries' AEO Programme.

To apply for MSME AEO-T1 certification online, kindly visit <https://www.aeoindia.gov.in> and for MSME AEO-T2 certification please apply in your jurisdictional Customs Zone, kindly check [https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/FAQs-\(AEO\)-1903.pdf](https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/FAQs-(AEO)-1903.pdf) for more information.

“ AEO Programme provides businesses with an internationally recognized status as a 'Secure' trader and reliable trading partner. ”



Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Certification for MSMEs

Simplified Criteria for MSMEs AEO Accreditation

- 01 Reduced Customs transactions to 10 only
- 02 Qualifying time-frame for establishing compliance reduced to 2 years
- 03 Filing reduced to 2 & 3 annexures for AEO T1 & T2 applicant respectively
- 04 Processing of MSME AEO T1 & T2 application has been reduced to 15 days (presently 1 month) and 3 months (presently 6 months) respectively

For more details:
<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-54-2020-updated.pdf>

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About Us

Directorate of International Customs is an office under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. It is the nodal office for implementation of the INDIAN AEO PROGRAMME.

AEO Programme is a voluntary compliance programme in line with WCO SAFE FoS. Through AEO Programme, a compliant entity can receive multifarious benefits from Indian Customs. This ensures faster clearance & security of supply chains along with bolstering India's EODB ranking.

Contact Us

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Liberalized AEO Package for MSMEs



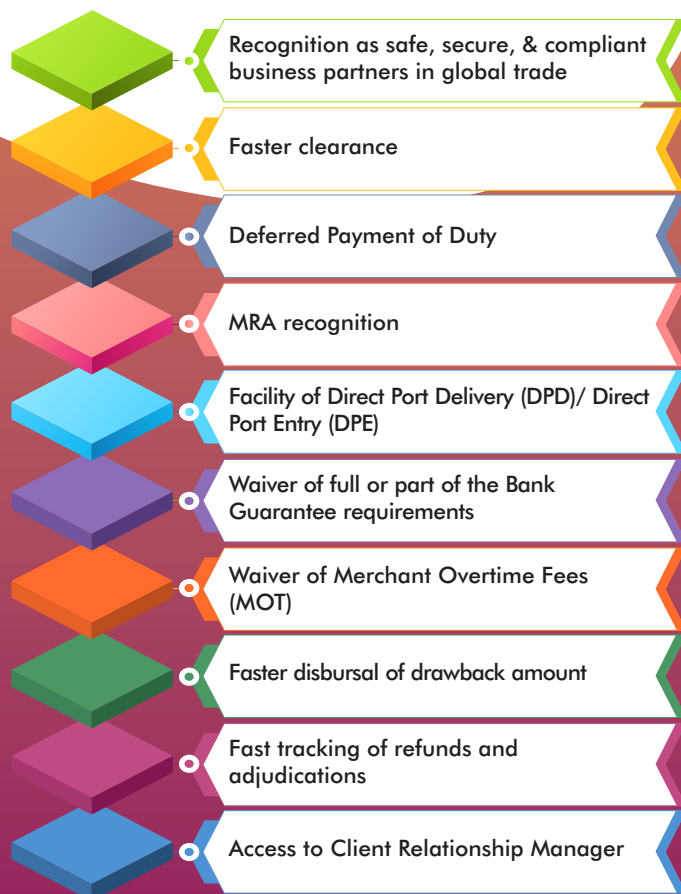
सत्यमेव जयते

Directorate of International Customs
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs
Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue
Government of India

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has emerged as a vibrant and dynamic sector of the Indian economy over the last few decades. It has consistently registered a higher growth rate compared to the overall industrial sector in India.

Appreciating the role of MSMEs in supporting our country's economy in the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic, CBIC has undertaken a new initiative inline with the Prime Minister's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. To support MSMEs, rationalized but effective compliance criteria have been announced for their AEO accreditation.

The AEO Programme gives significant benefits to Exporters & Importers:



India's AEO Programme is aligned with India's commitments made under Article 7.7 of WTO TFA. It enables Indian Customs to enhance and streamline cargo security through close cooperation with the principle stakeholders in the international supply chain viz. importers/exporters, logistics providers, custodians/terminal operators, customs brokers, and warehouse operators. It is being implemented vide CBIC Circular 33/2016 – Customs (as amended) (<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2016/circ33-2016cs-revised.pdf>).

MSME's Package Details

To facilitate MSMEs the CBIC has decided to further relax the current accreditation process and reduce the compliance burden for their AEO accreditation vide Circular No. 54/2020-Customs dated 15.12.2020 (<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/circ54-2020.pdf>). The special package envisages reduced compliance and procedural requirements as well as additional benefits with the objective of streamlining processes and procedures for trade as an ongoing commitment to Ease-of-Doing Business.

Highlights

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS	AEO T-1/T2	MSMEs AEO T1/T2
Eligibility Requirement	Handling minimum 25 Customs documents during the last financial year	Handling minimum 10 Customs documents, subject to handling at least 5 documents in each half-year period of the preceding financial year
Business Activities	At least three financial years preceding the date of application	At least two financial years preceding the date of application
Qualifying Period for Legal and Financial Compliance	The last three financial years	Only last two financial years
Time Limit for Processing of Application	For AEO T1 application- it is one month and for AEO T2 application- it is six months	For MSME AEO T1 application- it is fifteen working days. For AEO T2 application- it is three months
Documents / Annexures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEO T1 - Annexure A, B, C, D, E.1-E.4 • AEO T2 - Annexure A, B, C, D, E.1-E.4, E.5.1-E.5.7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSME AEO T1- Annexure 1 and 2 only • MSME AEO T2- Annexure 1, 2 and 3 only



Additional Benefits

Earlier relaxation in Bank Guarantee for AEO T1 - 50% & for AEO T2 - 25% of that required to be furnished by an importer/exporter who is not an AEO certificate holder...

...has been further relaxed to 25% for MSME AEO T-1 & 10% for MSME AEO T2 of that required to be furnished by an importer/exporter who is not an AEO certificate holder.