

PHOENIX-Greece receives AEO (Authorised Economic Operator) accreditation

PHOENIX, as a leading international freight forwarder, established in Greece since 1991, tries hard to continuously improve and update Service Quality, Customer Satisfaction, Safety throughout supply chains and Compliance with International Standards. This ongoing process takes place within policies assuming Compliance to EU and International Norms, Industry Best Practices, Environmental Responsibility and Ethical Business Conduct. For this reason PHOENIX has maintained Quality Management and Environmental Control systems certified under ISO-9001:2008 and ISO-14001:2012, corporate Code of Business Ethics and Social Responsibility policy certified under EBEN standards, as well as IATA Cargo Agent accreditation.

In this context PHOENIX management took a step further towards AEO certification which was successfully completed last week. As at end August 2013, PHOENIX is accredited as AEO (Authorised Economic Operator), to proven Financial Solvency, Security and Safety in full compliance with EU regulations. I wish to thank all members of the PHOENIX team for their hard work and devotion to accomplish this task. This is another milestone for PHOENIX added to milestones of being the first forwarder in Greece to receive ISO Quality and Environmental Management certifications and first certified for its Business Ethics Code of Conduct.

AEO scope in the EU

An AEO can be defined as an Authorised Economic Operator who is deemed reliable in the context of his customs related operations, and, therefore, is entitled to enjoy benefits throughout the EU. According to the EU regulations, the AEO status can be granted to any economic operator meeting the following common criteria:

1. Record of compliance with customs requirements
2. Satisfactory system of managing commercial and, where appropriate, transport records, which allows appropriate customs controls
3. Proven financial solvency
4. Security and Safety standards

Detailed information on AEO status and requirements can be found in the following EU link

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/customs/policy_issues/customs_security/aeo_guidelines2012_en.pdf

AEO scope in the US

Since May 2012 AEO scope was extended into USA in the context of the US/EU Mutual Recognition Programme. Details of this agreement, as provided by US Customs and Border Protection, Office of Public Affairs, can be found in the below link.

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/whats_new/13_01_31_eu-us_questions-answers.pdf

AEO scope in the World

In 2012, the WCO (World Customs Organisation) published a “Compendium of Authorised Economic Operator Programmes” in the context of SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade providing global standards for launching Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programme.

Many Customs administrations who have established AEO programmes are seeking

to formalize AEO mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) with other Customs administrations. According to the compendium, in 2012 AEO programmes were operational in: Algeria, Argentina, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, EU, Guatemala, Hong Kong-China, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, USA, Zambia. AEO programmes to be launched were prepared by: Botswana, Chile, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco, Peru, Turkey, Uganda. Customs compliance programmes were also available in: Brazil, Egypt, El Salvador, Indonesia, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Tanzania, Thailand. Details are available in the following link.

http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/tools/~/_media/B8FC2D23BE5E44759579D9E780B176AC.ashx

AEO as competitive advantage through reliable and safe supply chains

PHOENIX accreditation as AEO further enhances its competitive advantage of full compliance with international regulations and standards applicable in global freight forwarding, transport, logistics and supply chain management. It provides its customers and suppliers with secure and safe business.