

Press release – June 6, 2012

U-Freight gains trusted trader status in key markets

U-Freight Holland BV, the Dutch subsidiary of the U-Freight Group (UFL), has been certified by the Dutch Customs authority as an Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) in the Customs Simplifications and Security Procedures categories.

“The accreditation of our Dutch subsidiary came just before the EU and the USA signed an agreement to mutually recognise each other’s certified trusted traders (known shippers) from July 1,” says U-Freight Group CEO, Simon Wong.

According to the European Commission, there are nearly 5,000 companies in the European Union certified as Authorised Economic Operators and U-Freight Holland’s accreditation follows that of U-Freight’s Spanish (Tracosa) and German (Alpha trans Luft- und Seefrachtspedition) partners earlier this year.

U-Freight Holland will see tangible benefits of AEO accreditation including fewer physical and documentary examinations of cargo, priority use of non-intrusive inspection techniques when examination is required, priority processing by Customs whenever security is heightened and ‘Preferred Trader’ eligibility.

Simon Wong adds: “Under this agreement the EU and the USA will recognise each other’s security certified operators. Authorised economic operators in the EU, such as our Dutch subsidiary, and Spanish and German partners, will receive benefits when exporting to the US market, and the EU will reciprocate for certified members of the US Customs-Trade Partnership against terrorism (C-TPAT). U-Freight America has been C-TPAT certified since 2003 and validated in 2006. In the same year our oceanfreight forwarding division, U-Ocean USA, was certified.

“The additional benefits we gain as a result of the agreement between the EU and the USA will help us to enjoy lower costs, simplified procedures and greater predictability in our transatlantic activities, as a result of a mutual recognition decision, while ensuring the security standards of both countries are met.”

The AEO scheme is one of a series of measures being co-ordinated by the World Customs Organisation as part of a multi-layered approach to facilitating trade whilst making supply chains more secure and controlled. In adopting the AEO regime, the EU is aligning with similar measures introduced by other countries, including the USA and Japan. The scheme provides legitimate businesses with a quality mark, which will demonstrate that their internal controls, staff training and procedures are effective and compliant.

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