



French customs: your business partner

The new Authorised Economic Operator status (AEO)

French customs offers you a more active partnership with the new **Authorised Economic Operator status**.

The status is similar to a quality label, and is granted by the customs authorities. It offers your firm **easier access to many simplifications provided for in the customs rules. What do we ask in return?** Assurance that we can **rely on you** – particularly in terms of the safety of your entire chain of production, your financial solvency, and a good track record of compliance with regulations.

The structure, which was put in place on **1 January 2008**, is designed to strengthen the protection offered by customs inspections for goods entering or leaving European Union territory.

Over time, this could translate into **real competitive advantage** for your firm.

I - Advantages of the AEO status

Depending on the option you choose, you will be granted one of three certificates:

- The "customs simplifications" certificate
- The "security and safety" certificate
- The combined customs simplifications and security and safety (or "full") certificate

Being granted AEO status opens up a world of advantages to you, based on personalised treatment, which is determined after an audit of your firm. In particular, this includes:

- ☑ **Faster and easier access**, in compliance with customs regulations, to solutions such as the authorised consignor status, centralised customs clearance, exemption from having to supply a guarantee, etc.
- ☑ **Reduced inspection levels**
- ☑ For holders of the security and safety certificate, **reduced security and safety information transmission requirements**

The introduction of the AEO status marks an important stage in relations between economic operators and the customs administration. It distinguishes operators whose accounting, logistics management and preventive handling of safety and security risks provide iron-clad guarantees of their quality and reliability.

II - Applying for and receiving AEO status

1. Conditions

If your firm, no matter what size or status it is, meets the following criteria, you may apply for AEO status:

- No convictions for serious criminal infringement linked to your activity or that of the persons in charge of customs clearance and logistics
- Sufficient financial solvency for the past three years
- Proven compliance with customs requirements
- Access to your firm's customs and transport account books
- A commitment to increasing the reliability of your partners, in order to make your international logistics chain secure
- Compliance with strict standards concerning protection against intrusions into premises and logistical areas, and the existence of security awareness training for your employees

2. Granting of the status

You may make a paperless application for AEO status via the **Pro.DO@NE** portal, accompanied by a self-assessment form.

If you wish to apply in writing, please send you application to:

Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects
Bureau E3 – Politique du dédouanement
11, rue des deux Communes
93558 – Montreuil Cedex

If you are applying for AEO status for a company whose activities take place in several Member States (for example, a warehouse with release for free circulation operations carried out by a third party, a customs broker or a subsidiary), you must apply in the Member State where the main accounts are located.

Please note: your application can only be processed by the Member State where the main accounts are located if at least some of the operations to be covered by the AEO status are carried out in that same Member State.

Your AEO status will be granted following an audit by the customs authorities, who may call on the services of outside experts to inspect certain standards for security, solvency, logistics and management of your accounts.

Direction Générale des Douanes et Droits Indirects
Bureau Information et Communication
11 rue des deux Communes, 93558 Montreuil Cedex

<http://www.douane.gouv.fr>

Pro.douane portal: <https://pro.douane.gouv.fr>

Customs Information Line - 0 811 20 44 44

(cost of a local call from a land line)

ids@douane.finances.gouv.fr

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