

Awlawia Program (Saudi Authorized Economic Operator Program)

Become a trusted trader
and secure customs
benefits

Introduction

The KSA Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme provides businesses with the opportunity to partner with the Customs Authorities. Businesses who obtain the AEO certificate can realise significant customs benefits, operational efficiencies, enhanced supply chain management and recognition as a trustworthy trading partner both with other customs authorities and businesses. The AEO programme is open to importers, exporters, customs brokers, freight forwarders and any other agents involved in the international supply chain.

The AEO programme is a globally recognised concept as defined by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. In addition to adopting the SAFE framework, the AEO programme is also mutually recognised by other countries, including Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco and Indonesia (planned).

KSA has 200+ certified AEO
holders

11 recognised direct
benefits

2 mutual recognition
agreements

*Source: Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority

Benefits of Obtaining AEO certification

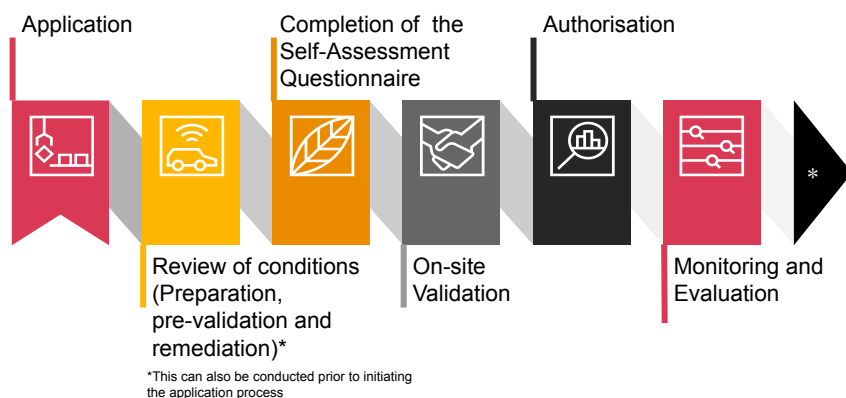
Direct benefits

- Fewer physical and document-based controls
- Use of fast-lane in customs clearance and priority over non-AEO shipments
- Dedicated Key Account Manager (KAM)
- Clearance prior to arrival/departure
- Controls carried out at warehouse or storage facilities
- Mutual recognition of AEO outside country of certification

Indirect benefits

- Cash flow benefits and risk mitigation
- Decreased supply chain disruptions
- Reputational and marketing benefits as a trusted trader
- Improved customer confidence
- Improved relations with customs and other government authorities

Authorisation Process



Criteria for Approval

The criteria to be met by the AEO applicants include:

1. Legal entity that is involved in the import and/or export of goods (i.e. engages in customs activities)
2. Conducts business within KSA and has an importers code for customs
3. Must not have previously held an AEO certificate that was revoked within 3 years of applying for AEO
4. Must not have been convicted in court for a serious criminal offence linked to economic activities within three years of the application date

AEO authorisation criteria is assessed across the following areas

- Company information: international trade activities, customs duty payment and management.
- Record Keeping: audit trail, IT environment, controls, ERP system
- Financial Viability: to meet and maintain trade compliance and supply chain security requirements
- Customs and international trade compliance: historical profile, duty drivers, customs broker management
- Control environment: organisational integrity, values and policies
- Security: secure supply chain, logistics, access to goods and business partners screening.

How PwC Can Help You

Provide tailored information about the AEO benefits and implications

Assist during the validation and audit process

Support during the application process

Assist in process changes as necessary (including remediation) to obtain AEO status

Help during the preparation and completion of the self-assessment questionnaire

Support in the management and maintenance of the AEO certificate

To learn more, please see our contact information below:

Carlos Garcia
Middle East Customs &
International Trade Leader
+971 56 682 0642
c.garcia@pwc.com

Rakan Alhiary
Director, Customs &
International Trade
+966 54 940 8357
rakan.alhiary@pwc.com

Abdulaziz Altemyat
Manager, Customs &
International Trade
+966 56 209 5126
abdulaziz.altemyat@pwc.com

António Giro
Manager, Customs &
International Trade
+966 56 925 8980
antonio.giro@pwc.com