

Introduction

The UAE Authorised Economic Operator (UAEO) programme provides traders with the opportunity to partner with the Customs Authorities. Both mainland and free zone established businesses who obtain the UAEO certificate can realise significant customs benefits, operational efficiencies, enhanced supply chain management and recognition as a trustworthy trading partner both with Customs Authorities and businesses. The UAEO 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, the UAEO programme is also mutually recognised by other countries, e.g. Saudi Arabia, South Korea, China and Indonesia, with more countries to join in the near future, e.g. India.

The UAE has 100+ certified AEO holders

61% of customs transactions were through AEO for H1 2020*

AEO reduces operational cost by 36% and speeds up customs clearance by 53%*

*Source: Dubai Customs

Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) in the UAE

Become a trusted trader and secure customs benefits

Benefits of Obtaining UAEO certification

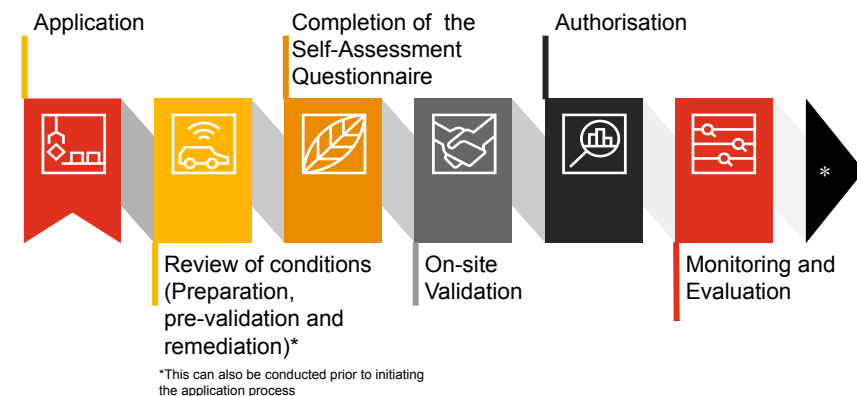
Direct benefits

- Fewer physical and document-based controls
- Prioritisation of consignments and faster clearance by Customs
- Lower risk source = less physical controls
- Reduction or exemption from customs audits
- Controls carried out at place of preference
- Mutual recognition of AEO outside country of certification

Indirect benefits

- Cash flow benefits, best practices 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 UAEO 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 the UAE 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 Must not have previously held an AEO certificate that was revoked within 3 years of applying for AEO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

UAEO 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 UAEO 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 UAEO status

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

Support in the management and maintenance of the UAEO certificate

To learn more, please see our contact information below:

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