

Importer Self-Assessment (ISA)

Expeditors Tradewin, LLC (“Tradewin®”) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Expeditors International of Washington, Inc., providing creative and effective solutions in compliance, logistics, and trade data management. Our talented compliance staff includes licensed customs brokers and former senior managers of U.S. and international Customs authorities. As a team, we work to assess complicated situations, maneuver through regulatory hurdles and implement solutions that meet both the letter of the law and the spirit of a client’s business.

CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION ACT

Since December 1993, all trade-related activities initiated by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (“Customs”) have been driven by the Customs Modernization Act (MOD Act). The MOD Act instituted the concept of Customs sharing responsibility with the importing community to achieve maximum compliance with U.S. import laws and regulations. The import community can achieve these goals by engaging in a program that assesses their overall compliance with Customs laws and regulations and evaluates their import policies and procedures. Importers are now held accountable for compliance with Customs requirements, and must show reasonable care in managing their import programs.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

One of the new methodologies developed by Customs in the Regulatory Audit area is the Importer Self-Assessment (ISA) program, which allows interested importers to assess their own compliance with Customs laws and regulations. The ISA program is primarily based on the development and use of established business practices and good internal controls designed specifically for an importer’s customs operations. The Importer may structure internal controls and procedures to meet its individual needs. The ISA program is a voluntary approach to trade compliance. The ISA program offers meaningful benefits that can be tailored to industry needs and requires that importers demonstrate readiness to assume responsibilities for managing and monitoring their own compliance through self-assessment.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IMPLEMENTATION

Tradewin can assist your company through the ISA process, including:

- Assisting you through the C-TPAT certification process, a pre-requisite for joining ISA, if not already certified;
- Providing an assessment of your current state of preparedness for participation in ISA, detailing any deficiencies and providing concrete recommendations for compliance;
- Completing the Memorandum of Understanding and the ISA Questionnaire;
- Ensuring that a bona fide and random sample of customs entries will be drawn on an annual basis;
- Analyzing your processes and procedures on an annual basis.

CONCLUSION

Tradewin® is available to help you understand the ISA regulations so that you may take full advantage of this voluntary program.



TRADEWIN®

Importer Self-Assessment (ISA) with Tradeflow®

Tradeflow® is a web-based logistics software suite designed by Expeditors for use by customers. Tradeflow solutions provide tools to help importers (and exports) gain more control of their global logistics supply chain by providing visibility and data management. Divided into integrated modules, or Centres, Tradeflow facilitates activities such as global product classification, landed cost estimation, compliance management, electronic booking, document creation and distribution and shipment visibility.

Tradewin Collaborative Service with Tradeflow®

By combining the Tradeflow® system and the global trade expertise and knowledge of Tradewin, we are able to provide importers with a comprehensive service for implementing an effective Importer's Self Assessment (ISA) process.

Tradeflow® Supports ISA

Core to the ISA program is the importer displaying reasonable care by using established business practices with defined internal controls designed specifically for their operations. Utilizing Tradeflow's on-line solutions, an importer can implement processes to manage their product effectively, associate their global trading partners, and access current international trade requirements vital to managing an importer's compliance with Customs' regulations.

Tradeflow® Automation and Integration

Tradeflow's open platform allows systematic integration with brokers. This facilitates timely distribution of accurate and consistent data for use at time of entry. Tradeflow subscribers also have the benefit of audit history. With this information, the importer can evaluate the processes and determine, based on their established business performance indicators and controls, if they are compliant.

Tradeflow provides solutions that support your organizations internal control process, a critical success factor to an Importer's Self Assessment initiative. For more information, please contact your local Tradeflow representative.

