

Arrangement
between
The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New Zealand
and
The New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office
Regarding the mutual recognition of
the authorised economic operator programme in Taiwan
and
the secure exports scheme programme in New Zealand

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New Zealand that represents the Taiwan Customs Administration and the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office that represents the New Zealand Customs Service, are hereinafter referred to as the "Participants",

CONSIDERING that the joint evaluation by the Taiwan Customs Administration and the New Zealand Customs Service has confirmed that the Authorised Economic Operator programme and the Secure Exports Scheme (the "Programmes") are security initiatives that strengthen the security of the supply chain and contribute to facilitating global trade;

RECOGNISING that the Programmes apply security requirements in accordance with the internationally recognised security standards set

forth in the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (“SAFE Framework”) advocated by the World Customs Organization;

ACKNOWLEDGING the specialised nature of the management processes, procedures, mechanisms and the legislation applied by the Participants in administering their respective Programmes;

UNDERSTANDING that the Programmes and other Customs-to-Customs measures between the Participants contribute significantly to end-to-end supply chain security;

HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:

1. IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITIES

The authorities implementing this Arrangement will be the Taiwan Customs Administration and the New Zealand Customs Service.

2. SCOPE

In this Arrangement, “Members” refer to:

- (a) companies certified under the Secure Exports Scheme programme in New Zealand; and

- (b) companies certified under the Authorised Economic Operator programme in Taiwan that have been issued with a Security and Safety AEO certificate (AEOS).

3. COMPATIBILITY

- (a) The Participants recognise that their Programmes are compatible.
- (b) The Participants will ensure that:
 - (i) the standards applied to their Programmes remain compatible in the following aspects:
 - A. minimum standards criteria for membership;
 - B. application process for membership;
 - C. assessment and validation process for membership; and
 - D. approval process for membership.
 - (ii) their Programmes continue to operate in accordance with the principles and standards of the SAFE Framework.

4. MUTUAL RECOGNITION

- (a) Each Participant will recognise the validation result and approval status granted to Members of the other Participant's Programme.

(b) Each Participant will take into account the approval status of Members of the other Participant's Programme in offering them, to the extent practicable, the following benefits:

(i) provide expedited clearance by reducing documentary checks and/or cargo inspections, for cargoes originating from a Member of the other Participant's Programme, subject to assessment of security alert levels.

(ii) grant priority checks for cargoes originating from the other Participant's Members that have been selected for physical inspection.

(iii) in the event of a disruption to international trade, endeavour to provide priority expedited clearance to the cargoes.

(c) Either Participant may, under reasonable circumstances, suspend any or all of the benefits given to Members of the other Participant's Programme. In such case, the Participant suspending the benefits will promptly notify the other Participant in writing about the suspension. The underlying reasons may also be included in the notification, as appropriate.

5. INFORMATION SHARING, COMMUNICATION, AND THE SECURITY OF INFORMATION

(a) The Participants will share information to effectively implement the following measures:

- (i) provide each other updates on the membership of their Programmes that will at least include the name, address(es), identification code(s) and approval status of the Members under their Programmes through a jointly determined communication channel in a secure manner;
 - (ii) provide each other a contact point for the receipt of communications and for customs cooperation, in order to facilitate the rapid and secure sharing of information and improve coordination on issues on their Programmes;
 - (iii) update each other of any developments or revisions of their Programmes in a timely manner; and
 - (iv) provide each other mutually beneficial information regarding supply chain security related to their Programmes.
- (b) The Participants will ensure the accuracy of the information they provide, and the confidentiality, protection, and security of the information they receive by:
- (i) ensuring that the information received under this Arrangement is kept confidential and is used solely for the purpose of implementing this Arrangement;
 - (ii) obtaining prior written consent from the Participant disclosing the information if the receiving Participant needs to use the information received for purposes not covered in this Arrangement;

(iii) notifying the other Participant when it discovers that it has provided inaccurate information, and taking appropriate action to correct the inaccuracies;

(iv) protecting the information received by using appropriate technical, security, and organizational measures to guard against risks such as loss, corruption, misuse, unauthorized access, alteration, disclosure or destruction, or any other risks to the security, confidentiality or integrity of the information; and

(v) notifying the other Participant as soon as possible after it becomes aware of any loss, suspected loss, or unauthorized use, disclosure, or access to information received pursuant to this Arrangement.

(c) The Participants will conduct the exchange of information under this Arrangement in accordance with the respective domestic law.

(d) The Participants will not use or further disclose the information provided under this Arrangement except in accordance with this Arrangement's provisions, or as required or permitted by their respective domestic law.

6. FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

The Participants will:

(a) actively implement this Arrangement with a view to strengthening supply chain security and enhancing their common interest in trade facilitation.

- (b) each strive to provide Members of the other Participant's Programme with further benefits by establishing channels of communication to discuss possible improvements or enhancements to the Arrangement.
- (c) promote the benefits of this Arrangement with a view to expanding membership of the Programmes.

7. DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Participants will settle any difference in the interpretation and implementation of this Arrangement through consultation.

8. COMMENCEMENT AND DISCONTINUATION

- (a) This Arrangement will come into effect on the date of the last signature by the Participants.
- (b) The Participants will review this Arrangement as necessary.
- (c) The Participants may amend this Arrangement upon their mutual written consent, and any modification will take effect on and from the date mutually determined by the Participants.
- (d) Either Participant may suspend any activities under this Arrangement or terminate this Arrangement by giving a thirty (30) days written notification to the other Participant.

(e) The Participants understand that their arrangements regarding confidentiality and security of the information obtained pursuant to this Arrangement will remain in effect during a discontinuation of activities and after the termination of this Arrangement as long as the Participants retain the information.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Arrangement.

SIGNED in duplicate in English.

**For the Taipei Economic and
Cultural Office in New Zealand**

**For the New Zealand Commerce
and Industry Office**



Name

Bill Keh-Ming Chen

Title

Representative of Taipei Economic
and Cultural Office in New Zealand

Date



Place

Wellington



Name

Moira Turley

Title

Director of New Zealand
Commerce and Industry Office

Date



Place

Taipei