

Authorized Economic Operators (AEO)



What is AEO?

AEO is a preferential customs clearing programme that allows trusted customs clients to enjoy:

Preferential customs facilitation when clearing.

Reduced time and cost at points of service.

Customs certified secured and reliable trading partner when trading.

How many categories of AEOs are there?

In Kenya, there are two categories of AEO:

- National AEO - the benefits are limited to the jurisdiction of Kenya.
- East African Regional AEO - this a more comprehensive programme since its members are mutually recognized by the East African Community.

Who is eligible for the AEO Programme?

- Bonded Warehouses
- Transporters/Carriers
- Clearing Agents
- Importers/Exporters

How do I join the AEO Programme?

AEO Program Operators involved in international trade are approved by the Customs Administration.

To qualify for the programme, companies have to satisfy the AEO Compliance Procedure.

This involves:

- Documentation of Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs)
- Maintain a good Compliance culture
- Training of company staff
- Maintaining proper Internal audit programmes/mechanisms
- Having Root cause investigations & Corrective & preventive measure actions
- Having a good Communication culture
- Keeping a Risk assessment criterion

What should I do to be AEO certified?

- Demonstrate compliance.
- Reliability: A trusted customer and is fully compliant.
- Have adequate traceable documentation and that follows due standard operation procedures
- Financial Solvency - have a good financial standing sufficient to fulfill its commitments.
- Have a mutual working relationship with customs.
- As an operator ensure you keep staff informed of the changes in legislation, customs procedures and other government regulations.
- Ensure a satisfactory system for management of commercial records by maintain a timely, accurate, complete and verifiable records.
- There should be good security for your networks that includes the system security and the security of the premises should be burglar proof.
- As a business entity, you must be incorporated in Kenya and must have operated for over 3 years since incorporation.

What is the AEO Certification process?

STEP 1 Receipt of AEO application

STEP 2 Review of application documents

STEP 3 On Site Validation

STEP 4 Report on AEO Examining Committee

STEP 5 Issuance of AEO Certification

What are the benefits of being in the AEO Programme?

- Dedicated Relationship Managers
- Access to Pre-Arrival Clearance
- Faster priority Documentary Clearance
- Access to priority service channel such as priority telephone line at contact centers and priority corner at release points
- Blue Channel Club
- Professional advice on customs compliance and security
- Destination verification on need basis
- Recognition as secure and reliable trading partners



AEO Contacts

Priority Centres: Times Towers, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Kilindini Mombasa and ICD-E.

OSBPs: Malaba, Busia, Namanga and Lunga Lunga.

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