



# AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR PROGRAMME

 **SARS**  
At Your Service





## AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR – COMPLIANCE

The Authorised Economic Operator Compliance programme, also known as Level 1 Accreditation, is a voluntary programme in which participating entities or traders cooperate with SARS Customs to maintain high-quality measures in terms of internal operational processes and computer systems, appropriate records of compliance, sufficient financial resources, as well as display sufficient Customs knowledge to be held responsible for Customs matters.

## AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR – SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Authorised Economic Operator safety & security programme also known as Level 2 Accreditation is a voluntary supply chain security programme, focused on improving the security of entities' or traders' supply chain through a documented process for determining and alleviating risk throughout their international supply chain.

### Who can join?

AEO Program open to:

01



Importers  
Exporters

02



Manufacturers  
Carriers  
Warehouse  
Distributors

03



Clearing  
Agents/  
Brokers

04



Transporters  
Suppliers

\*This excludes a foreign entity registered or licensed in terms of the Customs and Excise Act No. 91 of 1964

## AEO Compliance benefits available to Authorised Economic Operators

Access to client relationship manager	Reduced security amounts	Reduced Inspections	Expedited processes
Priority to non-intrusive inspection	Priority to TDN and VDN	Inspection of goods at client premises	Authorised usage of AEO logo
	Mutual recognition with major Trading Partners	Co-ordination of other Governmental Agency intervention	

## AEO Safety and Security benefits include all AEO Compliance Benefits, including the following:

Exemptions from certain customs supervision	Priority of applications of extra special or extra attendance	No charges when special attendance required	Provision of targeted training
Provision of quarterly trade statistics	Expedited refunds and drawbacks	Reduced cyclical compliance audit for licenses	Fewer inspections for compliance and supply chain security
Exemptions from security payments	Mutual recognition with major trading partners	Co-ordination of OGA intervention	

# How to join

CRITERIA	AEO-C	AEO-S
Appropriate record of compliance	X	X
Applicants Computer, accounting & logistical system	X	X
Sufficient knowledge	X	X
Evidence of Sufficient financial resources	X	X
Tax Compliance	X	X
Security (IT, Cargo, Personnel, Building, Business Partner)		X
Crisis Management		X
Communication & Training		X
Corporate Governance		X

## Application process

Applications should be submitted electronically on RLA system.

## Contact details

For more information on AEO Programme, please visit the SARS website on [www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za) or send email to [AuthorisedEconomicOperator@sars.gov.za](mailto:AuthorisedEconomicOperator@sars.gov.za)  
Or

Client Relationship Managers

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## Disclaimer

The information contained in this leaflet is intended as guidance only and is not considered to be a legal reference, nor is it a binding ruling. The information does not take the place of legislation and readers who are in doubt regarding any aspect of the information displayed in the leaflet should refer to the relevant legislation or seek a formal opinion from a suitably qualified individual.



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Become part of the  
AEO Programme



**e-Contact**

For more information on AEO Programme, please  
visit the SARS website on [www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za) or send  
email to [AuthorisedEconomicOperator@sars.gov.za](mailto:AuthorisedEconomicOperator@sars.gov.za)