



LOGISTIC PLAYERS SHOULD UTILIZE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING 'AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR' : C. Rajendiran, Principal Commissioner, Customs and Central Excise.

The Exim and logistic players should utilize the grand opportunity of being '**Authorised Economic Operator**' a prestigious certification offered by Indian Customs, said Mr. C. Rajendiran, I.R.S., Principal Commissioner , Customs and Central Excise, Visakhapatnam. AEO is a programme under the aegis of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) to secure and enhance international supply chain security and facilitate movement of legitimate goods across borders and waters. In an exclusive interview given to *Sagar Sandesh*, Mr. Rajendiran said the Customs department all these years became a trade facilitator of smooth foreign trade.' **It was a great visionary plan from Indian Customs that they have brought out the Dry Port concept to Indian logistic industry. With the same vision the Customs simplify most of rules and regulation over the years, and adapted a new concept' Authorised Economic Operator' is offered now", he said.** The Indian customs always goes with the most modern system that gained successful in international level, said Mr. Rajendiran. **'At the same time, the Indian AEO programme is a voluntary one that applied to all business entitles** that participate in the global supply chain. Entities those meet pre-determined compliance standards are certified as an AEO and as such enjoy appropriate customs facilitation' he said.

Explaining elaborately, he said that once obtained the certification, the AEO provides business with an Internationally recognized security standards. **'It promotes an AEO entity as a 'secure' and reliable trade partner. Incentives the AEO entities with defined benefits that translate into saving in time and costs thereby enhancing business competitiveness'**, he said.

When asked who are all can benefit from this AEO certification, the Commissioner listed **that any successful Import Export firm, Logistic Service Provider, Warehouse operators, CHAs., Custodians like Terminals can obtain the certification. The eligible criteria that they must have appropriate system of managing commercials records, obsolete compliance of customs and other relevant laws. Apart from proven financial solvency, they must maintain approved security and safety standards,** he said.

Mr. Rajendiran also explained the Indian Customs - Business partnership is for a secure world, the process of certification is being carefully prepared. **"As per the terms mentioned in CBEC Circular no. 28/2012 dated 16-11-2012, the submission of complete application for grant of AEO certifications would be accepted and a validation certificate would be obtained from AEO specialist. The formalities are made simple and on approval by AEO Programme Manager, the certification would be issued by DG Inspection of Customs and Central Excise.** The Trade should utilize such opportunities offered by the government in large numbers so that the system can assure a hassle-free, smooth flow of business all the times. Mr. Rajendiran added that this **AEO certification is a boon to Indian Logistic trade.**