



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
CUSTOMS & EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Customs Building
Jeremie Street
Castries, St. Lucia

**NOTICE
NO. 3 OF 2014**

TO: ALL IMPORTERS

AEO PROGRAM

The St. Lucia Customs & Excise Department continually strives to maximize its efficiency and effectiveness at collecting and protecting revenue, while facilitating legitimate trade and protecting our borders.

To meet the challenges of the 21st Century and to improve on the collection of revenue amidst this financial crisis plaguing the world today, it has become imperative that the St. Lucia Customs & Excise Department adopt the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program in keeping with the World Customs Organization's Safe Framework of Standards.

The program is geared towards promoting the seamless movement of goods through secure regional and international trade supply lines by adopting more Community-wide Risk Management systems to detect high-risk consignments. It will enhance our role, functions and capabilities and build stronger Customs to Business partnerships. Companies will become AEO Certified by the Customs Department upon meeting the required standards and set criteria of the AEO Program. They are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Customs Department and to comply with all laws relating to imports and exports. Sanctions for any breaches of the relevant laws and suspension from the program for violation may become necessary.

Some of the benefits of the program include:

- Expedited clearance
- First in line service
- Working as a partner
- Fast track service
- Minimum pre-clearance checks
- Fraud protection
- Just in time inventory system
- Lower operational cost, (transport, insurance, overheads)
- Trust from the Customs Department

The AEO will improve release times for goods imported thereby making it less time consuming for customers to receive goods. The AEO program will allow the Customs Department to better manage their resources and continue providing a more professional and timely service to all stakeholders.

Please feel free to contact the Assistant Comptroller Revenue Compliance if you are interested in joining the program.

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C. ANDY FERNELON
Comptroller of Customs (Ag)