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Common format of security declarations for AEOS and AEOF

At the AEO Network meeting held at 9 October 2007, a Member State proposed to develop a common format of the security declarations which AEOS or AEOF applicants can use to ensure the requirement of business partners' security. TAXUD welcomed the proposal as it would support harmonised implementation of the AEO rules throughout the Community. No Member State opposed such an approach.

The AEO Guidelines (TAXUD/2006/1450, 29 June 2007) describes, on page 19, that the security of the supply chain can be enhanced, amongst others, if the AEO asks for a security declaration from his business partner. In footnote 16, an example for the contents of such a security declaration is given.

The AEO Guidelines explains on page 19:

"Article 14k (1) (e) of CCIP stipulates that security and safety standards in relation to business partners shall be considered to be appropriate if "the applicant has implemented measures allowing a clear identification of his business partners in order to secure international supply chain."

Authorised Economic Operators can only be held responsible for their part of the supply chain, for the goods which are under their custody and for the facilities they operate. However, they are also dependent on the security standards of their business partners in order to ensure the security of the goods in their custody."

TAXUD has received a draft format of a common security declaration from the Member State initiating the issue. After mutual consultation, the draft has been finalised as attached.

TAXUD recommends that the attached security declaration is used in all Member States, in cases where the AEO-applicant wishes to meet the requirements set out in Article 14k (1)(e)CCIP by means of a security declaration from the business partner.