



World Customs Organization

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WCO REGIONAL ACCREDITATION WORKSHOP FOR TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL ADVISORS (TOAS) ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

Kashiwa - JAPAN

From 10th to 13th October 2023

1. Background

- The World Customs Organization (WCO), as a leading international Customs organization, is – with the support of its Members – responsible for ensuring efficient and safe trade, while protecting consumers and businesses from the risk of harm worldwide. Unfortunately, counterfeiting and piracy pose a serious threat to national economies, the health of populations and the security of the world, given the ramifications of existing relationships between counterfeiters and criminal/terrorist networks.
- For some years now, counterfeiting and piracy have been growing in sophistication. Similarly, e-commerce represents an increasingly serious challenge for Customs administrations, because of the proliferation of small consignments.
- To meet the needs of Members and in response to discussions held by the Counterfeiting and Piracy Group, the WCO has designed a new version of the IPR strategy 2020, aimed at providing an appropriate and updated solution to the threat of counterfeiting. This strategy was approved by the 41st Meeting of the Enforcement Committee (EC).
- The aim of this strategy is to explore all of the innovative technologies which are available to Customs administrations and which may have a positive impact on the work carried out by front-line officials.
- Capacity building is one of the five (5) pillars of this strategy, with the aim, in particular, of building up the pool of accredited experts who can help the Secretariat in the conduct of its activities.

2. Objectives of accreditation

- The aim of the accreditation process is to build up the pool of Technical and Operational Advisors (TOAs) in the WCO for the IPR, Health and Safety Programme of the Enforcement Sub-Directorate.
- The WCO Secretariat does not have sufficient human resources to deal with the increasing number of requests from Members to build capacities and provide technical assistance and to conduct operations against counterfeiting and piracy.
- There is also a gap in the pool of experts as some experts have retired or moved on to other activities.
- The WCO's IPR TOAs may be invited to carry out capacity building activities and to assist Members as part of operations.



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3. Profile of ideal candidate: Qualifications and Competences

In order to be accredited as WCO Technical and Operational Advisors on IPR candidates need to demonstrate most of the following requirements:

Personal Skills

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Personal suitability and the aptitude required for international development work (open-mindedness, patience, self-awareness, cultural awareness, empathy, etc.). A high level of self-motivation, flexibility and commitment to task completion.
- social and communication skills (patient, approachable character; good communicator; respectful of other people; team spirit); methodological skills; high level of personal motivation, flexibility and commitment to completing tasks;

Academic Background

- University-level education or equivalent professional experience of 5 years in public administration.
- A post-graduate university degree would be considered an advantage.

Professional Career Expertise

- Ongoing experience within a Customs administration (at least 5 years).
- Proven experience in implementing Customs modernization processes.
- Knowledge of IPR.
- Demonstrated understanding of the latest developments and trends in IPR.
- Experience as an advisor, facilitator or mentor.

Knowledge of WCO Standards and Instruments

- Thorough understanding of the WCO strategies and approach thorough, up-to-date knowledge of the WCO (Customs in the 21st Century; SAFE Framework of Standards, Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce, Guidance on Special Customs Zones/Free Zones, Transit Guidelines, Kyoto Convention, COVID-19 Action Plan);
- understanding of the main issues in enforcement and the relevant WCO tools (Risk Management Compendium, risk management in a pandemic);
- knowledge of recently introduced WCO tools relating to IPR: training handbook, self-assessment tool, case studies and risk indicators to identify IPR, health and safety infringing goods related to e-commerce, practical guidelines on “Environmentally safe storage and destruction of intellectual property infringing goods”, CLiKC! E-learning module on combating illicit medicines and counterfeit or substandard medical supplies related to COVID-19 and other pandemics;
- knowledge of international standards relating to IPR, such as the TRIPS Agreement.
- IPR data analysis skills and experience will be a strong asset;
- perfect command of the WCO IPR CENcomm tool;
- knowledge on CEN data’s visualisation tools;



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- recent experience at port/airport installations in risk assessment and combating counterfeiting and piracy;
- knowledge of risk assessment techniques relating to IPR (collection of intelligence, targeting, selection and processing of information);
- detailed knowledge of modes of transport, trade and related Customs documents;
- knowledge of global and regional trends in IPR fraud and criminal activities;
- experience of discussions/debates about IPR in the international arena;
- strategic understanding of challenges to Customs capacity building in the area of counterfeiting and piracy;

International Experience

- Experience in working in different cultures.

Vocational Skills

- Ability to communicate effectively and engage with senior Customs managers, as well as other border management and trade representatives and private sector representatives.
- Ability to facilitate group discussions relating to public administration reform and modernization.
- Ability to work effectively in a team by contributing to common objectives. Ability to communicate clearly in writing, demonstrating the competence to think and analyze logically and comprehensively.
- Proven analytical abilities and reporting skills. basic IT skills – Word, Excel, PowerPoint;
- familiarity with online meeting and training platforms (Webex, MS teams, Skype, Zoom, KUDO), etc.

Language Skills

- Proficient English is required. Additional languages are an advantage.

4. Assessment methods

Accreditation workshops will be held in order to assess candidates as IPR TOAs.

a. Stage 1: selection on the basis of qualifications

- Candidates will be selected on the basis of their application forms, including their CVs.
- The number of participants in the accreditation workshop will be limited to a maximum of 10.
- The Secretariat will select the candidates after examining their applications on the basis of the aforementioned criteria.

b. Stage 2: accreditation workshop



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- The candidates will take part in a four-day workshop, where they will demonstrate their skills and knowledge. The workshop will require a high level of participation in the discussions, group activities and presentations.
- The Secretariat will ensure that the candidates have the necessary attributes according to the established criteria. A more detailed programme will be sent out in due course.
- In order to guarantee the transparency of selection, all candidates will be informed of the result of the assessment by the Secretariat. The selected candidates will be able to proceed to Stage 2.

c. Stage 3: activities on the ground and/or online

- Selected candidates who have successfully completed the workshop will be invited to take part in WCO capacity building activities.
- During these activities, the candidate is assessed to determine whether or not his or her accreditation process can be completed.

5. Availability

Participation in the workshop is subject to the prior condition that any participant successfully completing it and subsequently obtaining full accreditation as an IPR TOA must make him- or herself available to the WCO and set aside a maximum period of 12 (non-consecutive) weeks during the three years following the date of accreditation to provide training or conduct technical assistance activities.