FAST - Free & Secure Trade for Commercial Vehicles

Entities within the trade community can benefit from participation in and selecting carriers and companies who participate in a program which enables trade to flow more quickly providing a benefit not only to the trade community but also the consumer.

There are three important points to ensure a faster more smooth process in trade importation: Companies being C-TPAT certified, Carriers and Importers being FAST certified and drivers having FAST cards. Shipments that meet these three points are processed 50% faster than non-FAST shipments.

The Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program is a commercial clearance program for known low-risk shipments entering the United States from Canada and Mexico. Initiated after 9/11, this innovative trusted traveler/trusted shipper program allows expedited processing for commercial carriers who have completed background checks and fulfill certain eligibility requirements. Currently, the program has more than 86,000 members.

The FAST program allows pre-screened, low-risk travelers to be processed with less delay by U.S. and Canadian officials at designated commercial highway lanes at high-volume border crossing locations. Approved applicants are issued a FAST card which they present to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer when they arrive at the port of entry and proceed to make their declaration.

The FAST cards have enhanced security features that allow U.S. and Canadian citizen cardholders to comply with the documentary requirements under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). To participate, both the U.S. and Canada must approve an individual's application. Denial of an application by either country will keep an individual from participating in the FAST program.

The FAST program is a binational program and applicants must complete an-online application form. Qualified applicants are required to visit a FAST enrollment center for an interview. Applications may be completed and interviews scheduled using the Global On-line Enrollment System located on the FAST Web site. The cost to apply for FAST membership is $50 (USD or CAD) and it is valid for a 5 year period.

Participation in FAST requires that every link in the supply chain, from manufacturer to carrier to driver to importer, be certified under the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program.

CBP routinely conducts on-site visits to domestic and foreign C-TPAT member facilities to evaluate and validate their supply-chain security measures. More than 11,000 companies world-wide are certified C-TPAT members.

Are You Eligible?

U.S. citizens, U.S. lawful permanent residents, Canadian citizens, Canadian lawful permanent residents and Mexican nationals are eligible for FAST membership. You must be 18 years of age or older and possess a valid driver's license.

Reasons for Ineligibility

You may not be eligible for participation in the FAST program if you:

• Provide false or incomplete information on the application;

• Have been convicted of any criminal offense or have pending criminal charges or outstanding warrants (to include driving under the influence);

• Have a criminal conviction for which you received a pardon;

• Have been found in violation of any customs, immigration or agriculture regulations or laws in any country;

• Are inadmissible to the United States under immigration regulation, including applicants with approved waivers of inadmissibility or parole documentation; or

• Fail to meet other requirements of the FAST Commercial Driver Program.

C-TPAT Application Qualifications for U.S./Canada Highway Carriers

• Be an active international border crossing U.S./Canada Highway Carrier.

• Have a business office staffed in the U.S. or Canada.

• Have an active U.S. National Motor Freight Traffic Association issued Standard Carrier Alpha Code in the following format: #### SCAC Code (4 Alpha Characters)

• Have a designated company officer that will be the primary cargo security officer responsible for C-TPAT.

• Commit to implementing and maintaining C-TPAT Highway Carrier supply chain security criteria.

• Submit your C-TPAT application and required supply chain security profile information via the C-TPAT Online Application Web Portal submission process. Paper Applications for C-TPAT are no longer accepted and will not be processed.

• Additional information can be found at:

http://www.cbp.gov/border-security/ports-entry/cargo-security/c-tpat-customs-trade-partnership-against-terrorism/apply

For more information on this topic contact
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-CBP-
U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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