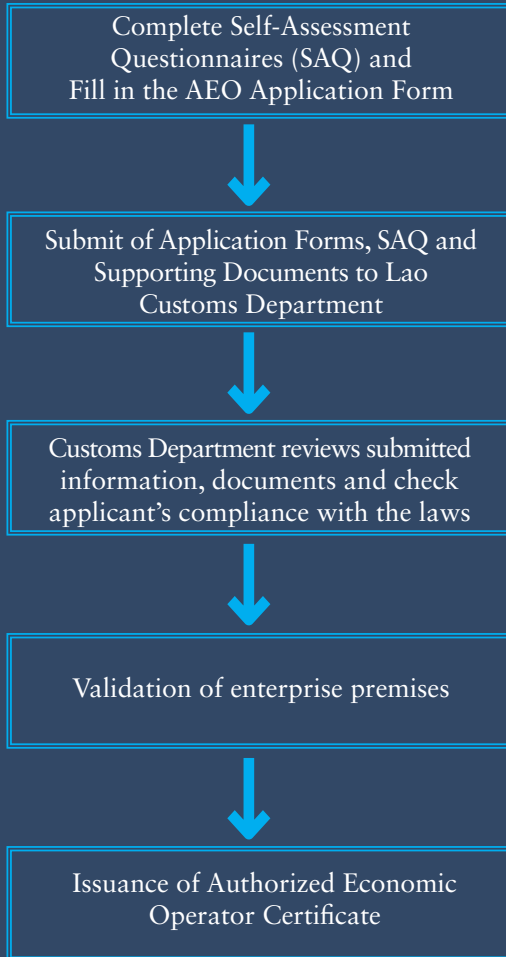


VI. Application and Approval Processes



Inquiry for Additional Information

Customs Department
Post Clearance Audit Division
AEO Program

Telephone: +856 021 454840
Fax: +856 021 454841

Application, SAQ and documents are available and downloadable at:

Lao Customs Department:
<http://www.customs.gov.la>

Lao PDR's Trade Information Portal:
<http://www.laotradeportal.gov.la>



Supported by:



Customs Department



Lao PDR's Authorized Economic Operator Program (AEO)



III. What is an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)?

An AEO is a business operator that is officially certified by the Lao Customs Department in the following categories:

- Importer and Exporter
- Logistic Service Provider
- Freight Forwarder
- Warehouse Operator
- Sea Port or Dry Port Operator
- Airport Operator
- Customs Broker
- Manufacturer
- Distributor

IV. Eligibility Criteria of an AEO

A business operator wishing to apply for an AEO status must meet 14 criteria according to the Ministry of Finance's Instruction on the Supervision of Authorized Economic Operators No.1159/MOF, dated 18 April 2019.



V. What Benefits do AEOs Receive?



1. Priority in filing detailed customs declaration and customs clearance and release at Customs check points;
2. Classified as low risk business operators in the Lao Customs Department's risk management system;
3. Lowest level of physical inspection if required and physical inspection is authorized at warehouses or premises of the business operators.
4. Eligible for pre-arrival declaration and clearance, assessment and payment of duties and other obligations.
5. Eligible for payment of duties within 30 days from the date of releasing goods from warehouse (release import goods first and pay duties and other obligations later);
6. Entitled to request for customs clearance outside working hours.
7. Recognized as compliant firms nationally and internationally.
8. Reduction in times and costs of documentary compliance for the business operators.

I. Introduction

The Lao PDR's Authorized Economic Operator Program (AEO) is part of the World Customs Organization's SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, which is voluntarily participated by business operators.

II. Objective

The Lao PDR's AEO Program aims to ensure supply chains security and facilitate trade for Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) and to enhance strict compliance with laws and regulations.