

Notice to Traders



Hong Kong Customs Implements Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Authorized Economic Operators with Japan Customs



The Hong Kong-Japan Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on the Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs) becomes operational with effect from **31 October 2016**.

The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) signed the MRA with the Japan Customs (JC) on 23 August 2016. The MRA not only fosters closer cooperation between C&ED and its counterpart in Japan in promoting a secure and efficient flow of goods in the international supply chain, but also further strengthens the trade competitiveness of local companies in Japan.

Under the MRA, local companies accredited by the C&ED as AEOs can enjoy Customs facilitation, such as reduced examination or prioritized clearance, for goods exported to Japan upon arrival. Similarly, companies which have been certified by the JC as AEOs will have their exported goods cleared expeditiously upon arrival in Hong Kong.

To enjoy clearance facilitation during import and export under the MRA, please follow the procedures for the implementation of the Hong Kong-Japan MRA at **Annex I**.

Joining the Hong Kong AEO Programme

If you are not a Hong Kong AEO right now, you are cordially invited to join the Hong Kong AEO Programme to enjoy the clearance facilitation. Please contact our AEO Enquiry Hotline at 3759 2153 or visit our AEO website (http://www.customs.gov.hk/en/trade_facilitation/aeo/index.html) for more information about the Programme.

For enquiries on this Notice, please contact us at 3759 2153.

Customs and Excise Department

**Procedures to Enjoy Mutual Recognition Benefits
Under
Hong Kong – Japan MRA**

Hong Kong AEO Exporting Consignments to Japan

1. Your company should convert your **HK AEO number** by deleting the first three characters “**AEO**”.

Example:

Original HK AEO number	Converted AEO number
AEO HK0123456789	HK0123456789

2. Provide the **12-digit converted AEO number** (i.e. **HK0123456789**) to importers in Japan for their import declarations to the declaration system (NACCS) of Japan Customs.
3. The importers/customs brokers in Japan shall input the **converted AEO number** of your company to the “仕出人” (Foreign Exporter Code) field of NACCS.

The screenshot shows the NACCS input form with the following fields and annotations:

- Japan Importer:** A red box highlights the fields for the importer, including '輸入者 code', 'company name', and '住所'.
- Foreign Exporter:** A red box highlights the fields for the foreign exporter, including '仕出人 code', 'company name', and '住所'. The '仕出人 code' field is highlighted in yellow.
- Converted AEO Number:** An orange box at the bottom points to the '仕出人 code' field with the text "(12-digit converted Hong Kong AEO number to be entered)".

Hong Kong AEO Importing Consignments from Japan

1. Your company should convert your **HK AEO number** by deleting the first three characters “**AEO**”.

Example:

Original HK AEO number	Converted AEO number
AEO HK0123456789	HK 0123456789

2. Provide the **12-digit converted AEO number** (i.e. **HK0123456789**) to exporters in Japan for their export declarations to the declaration system (NACCS) of Japan Customs.
3. The exporters/customs brokers in Japan shall input the **converted AEO number** of your company to the “仕向人” (Foreign Importer Code) field of NACCS.

Importing Japan AEO Consignments into Hong Kong

1. Your company should ask exporters in Japan (if they are Japan AEO companies) to accurately furnish their **Company Names** and **Operating Addresses** certified under the Japan AEO programme, together with other cargo information, to their carriers (i.e. Airlines or Container lines).
2. Carriers will use such information in completing Cargo Manifests of the conveyances, which will be used for Customs clearance by the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department.