



## What's Up with Committees

I.E.Canada's Customs & Legislation (C&L) Committee held an in-person strategic planning session on February 9, 2010 to review the committee's activities in 2009 and prioritize the advocacy issues to be addressed in 2010. This session was conducted in order to assist the committee co-chairs and I.E.Canada staff in identifying those issues that are the most relevant and important to committee members.

A copy of a presentation with an overview of the committee's activities in 2009 is available on the member-only section of I.E.Canada's website ([click here](#)). Participants confirmed the mandate of the C & L and agreed to maintain the monthly meeting schedule, while extending the meetings to 1 ½ hours.

The committee identified the following priority issues for the upcoming year:

- Customs Self-Assessment (CSA) Program;
- Advance Commercial Information (ACI)/eManifest Program;
- Other Government Department (OGD) Single Window Initiative; and
- Broker Licensing/Account Security, and in particular maintaining qualified or professional status.

While the committee will focus its efforts on these priority issues, committee members will continue to monitor and be engaged in consultations on other issues such as the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS); Export Reporting; Business Simplification; and the Courier Low Value System Program Review. There was also discussion of creating a joint working group with the Food Committee to address Canadian Food Inspection Agency operational issues, such as new EDI advance information requirements and changes to meat inspection procedures.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (EST).

As follow up to the ACI Subcommittee meeting held in January, I.E.Canada organized a special working group meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2010 to review the outstanding issues relating to eManifest highway mode and develop solutions to put forward to CBSA prior to the External Stakeholder Partnership Network (eSPN)'s Plenary meeting scheduled for mid March 2010. The meeting, which was hosted by FedEx, was attended by members along with representatives of other stakeholders, including the Canadian Courier & Logistics Association (CCLA), the Canadian Trucking Alliance, and the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA). A document containing the proposed solutions is currently being finalized.

A Customs Self Assessment (CSA) Importer Roundtable organized by I.E.Canada, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (CVMA) and Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) took place on Friday, February 12, 2010. This meeting brought together CSA importers and some applicants with senior officials from CBSA headquarters to discuss outstanding issues relating to the CSA program, specifically CBSA's working proposal for an offshore clearance option. According to a survey conducted in advance, the results of which were presented to CBSA during the meeting, 75% of CSA importers would benefit from an offshore clearance option, and 69% from an expanded CSA clearance option for highway. The meeting served as a means to consult with a broader group of stakeholders about a working proposal that previously been discussed with a smaller working group of CSA importers. While there are areas of concern, the general

consensus was that importers support CBSA moving forward with the proposal. The future of CBSA's working proposal will depend on CBSA receiving funding in the March 4<sup>th</sup> federal budget.

For more information regarding the committees' schedules; previous meeting minutes; memos; and submissions, please go to members only section of I.E.Canada's website ([click here](#)).

If you would like more information about any of our committees and their upcoming meetings, please feel free to contact Amesika Baëta, Committee Director, at [abaeta@iecanada.com](mailto:abaeta@iecanada.com).

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#### Upcoming Committee Meetings & Association Events

- Trade Security Committee Meeting – Monday, March 8, 2010 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (EST)
- EX Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 10, 2010 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (EST)
- C&L Committee Meeting – Tuesday, March 23, 2010 - 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (EST)
- Cross Canada eManifest Workshops - Canada's eManifest is Coming! Will You be Ready? ACI eManifest Preparation and Compliance Workshops - March 29 - April 9, 2010 ([click here for brochure](#))
- April 2010 Conference - Emerging Issues in Customs and Trade Compliance - CBSA Restructuring – What Will It Mean to Your Business – April 19 - 21, 2010 – ([click here for brochure](#))

If you have any questions, please contact Amesika Baeta, committee director at [abaeta@iecanada.com](mailto:abaeta@iecanada.com)