

H.R. 3551: C-TPAT Reauthorization Bill

On September 25, 2017, the House Homeland Security Committee favorably reported a bill concerning C-TPAT to the House of Representatives. This bill, H.R. 3551, would reauthorize the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism program (C-TPAT) which has not been reauthorized in its 11-year history. The bill was introduced by Rep. Martha McSally of Arizona. If passed, a number of changes will be put in place reflecting current global security concerns and trade conditions.

Some of the changes that the bill calls for are as follows:

1. Each C-TPAT participant must designate a company employee (not a contractor or third-party) to hold the participant accountable for managing participation in the program.
2. The bill would require CBP (in consultation with industry) to review the C-TPAT minimum security criteria at least every two years, making updates as needed.
3. CBP would be required to put in place additional security procedures for certain categories of participants, individual participants, and specific entities in order to focus closely on security vulnerabilities.
4. The bill would extend eligibility to participate in C-TPAT to exporters, importers, freight forwarders, customs brokers, air carriers, ocean carriers, land carriers, and contract logistics providers.
5. The bill establishes C-TPAT as the authorized economic operator program to grant CBP the latitude and flexibility to improve and expand its trusted trader program as needed.

Text of bill: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3551/text>

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